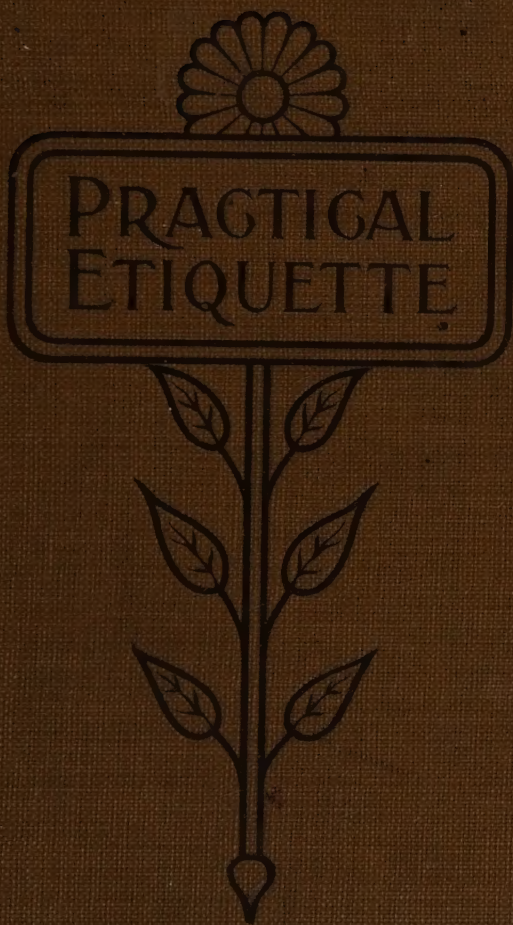




PRACTICAL
ETIQUETTE

By N. C.

THIRTIETH THOUSAND

1920
A. FLANAGAN COMPANY
CHICAGO

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INTRODUCTION.

" True politeness is to do and say
The kindest thing in the kindest way."

If civil law is the outgrowth of regard for other people's rights, social law is equally the outgrowth of regard for other people's feelings and convenience. Social law is kindness and good-will and the desire to be agreeable codified. A system of so much importance cannot be unworthy of consideration.

The very essence of good manners is self-possession, and self-possession is another name for self-forgetfulness. Gentility is neither in birth, manner, nor fashion, but in the mind. A high sense of honor, a determination never to take a mean advantage of another, and an adherence to truth, delicacy, and politeness towards those with whom one may have dealings, are the essential and distinguishing characteristics of a gentleman.

Quietness in all things is an essential element to a well-bred person. He shuns all outward display of his personality; he cares not to be seen or heard; he eschews noisy and grandiloquent talk; he avoids

showy and noticeable costumes. His voice is low; his words simple; and his actions grave. He holds himself habitually under restraint; his words never seem to vibrate with emotion.

Habits are said to be good or bad as the result of actions that are right or wrong. A man of good habits is one who has for so long a time practiced right thinking, speaking, and doing, that he acts properly from force of habit.

Good manners are not to be put on for particular occasions, like fine clothes, but they should be one's second nature. The simpler and more easy and unconstrained one's manners, the more he will impress people with his good breeding. Affectation is one of the brazen marks of vulgarity.



CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTIONS, CALLS, CARDS, VISITING.

"A beautiful behavior gives a higher pleasure than statues or pictures; it is the finest of the fine arts."—*Emerson*.

INTRODUCTIONS.

In introducing persons, one should be careful to pronounce each name distinctly.

When either name is not perfectly understood, a repetition of it should be requested of the person making the introduction. When introductions are given, it is the man who should be presented to the woman; when two women are introduced, it is the younger who is presented to the elder. For example, in presenting Mr. Jones to Mrs. Smith, it is Mrs. Smith's name that is first mentioned. The word "introduce" is preferred to "present." Informal introductions are given by merely mentioning the names; as, "Mrs. Smith, Mr. Jones," and this is ordinarily sufficient.

In introducing two sisters, the elder is "Miss Smith" and the younger "Miss Virginia Smith."

When two women are introduced to each other, it is not necessary for either to rise; a bow and a smile from each is sufficient.

A woman does not rise when a man is presented to her, unless he is very old or is a person of great importance. Upon being introduced, a married woman may offer her hand to a man but it is not customary for a young woman to do so.

It is the duty of a man who attends a private entertainment, to have himself presented to every member of the family whom he does not know.

An introduction in the street car is very bad form.

One should never forget that it is difficult, almost impossible, for some people to remember names and faces, and that such people actually suffer from their inability to recognize and call by name persons to whom they may have been introduced recently.

It is not uncommon to see one approach such a person, offer her hand, and say, if there is not an immediate recognition, "I am afraid you do not remember me," while the person approached stands in agony, and gradually makes an apology for her poor memory, and asks the name.

One who is truly polite, who is at all thoughtful for another person's feelings, would not be the cause of such a scene. She would prevent it by saying: "I am Mrs. Smith. I had the pleasure of meeting you at Mrs. Brown's luncheon last Thursday;" or something of the kind.

Whenever one has reason to think his name or face may have been forgotten, he should make himself known, in approaching another person, by giving his name at least:

CALLS.

A first call ought to be returned within a very short time.

A lady when receiving rises as her callers enter, and they immediately advance to pay their respects to her before speaking to others.

A man takes any vacant chair, without troubling the hostess to look after him.

A man rises when women with whom he is talking rise to take their leave. Women calling do not rise unless those who are leaving are friends older than themselves.

When taking leave, one ought to choose a moment when there is a lull in the conversation, and then take leave of the hostess, letting one bow include the others in the room.

One month after the birth of a child, a call of congratulation is made by acquaintances.

A call of condolence is made within ten days after the death, if the caller is on intimate terms with the family, or within a month if otherwise.

Calls of congratulation are due to the newly married, and to the parents who gave the invitations to the marriage.

A man invited by a woman to call upon her, cannot, without great discourtesy, neglect to pay the call within a week.

A lady will never keep a caller waiting, without sending word that she will be in immediately.

One ought always to return a call, but if the acquaintance is not desirable, the first call may be the last.

Some women only rise when their callers leave, others accompany them as far as the drawing-room door; but it is always polite for a hostess to accompany her visitors to the front door when they take their leave, if there is not a servant on hand to open the door for them. The best bred hostesses even go so far as to accompany their callers to the elevator in a hotel or an apartment-house. Of course, if one has more than one caller at a time, it would be discourteous to leave the others to accompany one to the door; but, otherwise, it is rude to permit a friend to go to the door alone, and get out as best she may.

A bride who is "At Home after November first," should make a point of literally staying at home for an hour or two every afternoon during the month of November

and the early part of December. She should be dressed to receive callers, and should have some dainty refreshments ready to serve,—tea and sandwiches or cake. After the first week of December the bride may begin to return her calls, calling first on those who first called upon her, and so on.

When the “at home” is a large and formal function, with engraved invitations and all the accessories of hired waiters, an elaborate repast, floral decorations, etc.,—such as a debutante’s coming out, a wedding reception, or a reception to celebrate a wedding anniversary, and other large entertainments of this order,—an after-call is obligatory. But an ordinary “at home” does not demand another call, for instance, the reception or “days” a bride has on her return from her wedding trip, or when she is settled in her new home; or a tea or “days” for which a hostess informally sends the invitations written or engraved on her visiting cards, and receives with little ceremony and serves only a modest menu. On the contrary, the hostess owes a return call to all who attend; and only those who were invited, but were unable to be present, are in debt to her.

The length of time proper for one to stay at an “at home” depends on circumstances. It is always a compliment to one’s hostess to make a long visit at “a day”, for it im-

plies that one is having a pleasant time; but nobody should stay long enough to be a burden on the hostess's hospitality, or to detain her from her other guests. If one finds that she does not know any one present, or if she is not introduced to a congenial person with whom she can have a pleasant chat, it would be wise for her to leave after a conventional ten or fifteen minutes' call.

The calling code demands that soon after a second caller is announced, the caller who was first present shall take leave of the hostess. The reason for this rule is obvious: visitor number one has already had a little time of uninterrupted *tête-à-tête* with the hostess before visitor number two appeared, and he or she should generously retire first, so that visitor number two may have the same privilege. But while this is the law, it depends somewhat on circumstances whether it is always carried out. If the first caller is an intimate friend of the hostess, and has come to have a long informal talk with her, and the second caller is merely a formal visitor whose obvious intention is to make a ceremonious visit, then the first comer may, with perfect propriety, outstay the other; or if the hostess has particularly asked the former to remain until after the latter goes, he may do so, and, of course, if the first visitor has come for some special reason, and the visitor who

is announced later interrupts an important conversation, which, for business or other reasons, should be continued, the former is naturally justified in transgressing the calling code. All things being equal, however, it is the place of the first comer to be the first goer; and one must have a very good excuse for outstaying a caller who comes later.

Guests who are invited to attend one large reception which is given for the express purpose of introducing a young woman into society, should make a call after the reception, but if the *débutante* is introduced at a series of "days," the callers need call but once, on one of the "days."

An invitation to any kind of "day" or reception demands a card from a person who is unable to attend the function; and the card should be sent on the day of the reception, even if the invitation to the function has been already answered, and even if an after-call is in order.

When one calls on an acquaintance who is staying with a relative, the caller should ask for the latter (the hostess), even if she does not know her, and she should leave one of her own and one of her husband's cards for her, as well as one of each for her friend. It is not obligatory to leave two of her husband's cards for each woman.

Even in the most formal visiting, it is optional whether one leaves one or two cards. Probably the hostess will excuse herself altogether; but the caller must show her the courtesy of asking for her.

In making a call it is proper to give one's card to the servant who opens the door, if it is not a regular reception day; but on such an occasion the card should be left either in the dressing-room or on the hall table in passing out.

In making a formal call ten minutes is quite long enough to stay.

When one is returning visits and driving, it would be in very bad taste to have the coachman get off his box and take the card to the door. It is the woman's place to deliver her card in person, unless she has a footman to attend to it for her.

In making an evening call a man should appear about half-past eight, and remain an hour. Even if his visit is to the daughter, he should ask for her mother.

It is quite proper, when making calls with a friend, for one to write her name in pencil on her friend's card, if she has no card of her own with her.

Those women whose households are most modest find that the day "at home" is a great convenience, since, having a special

time for receiving one's friends, all necessary arrangements can be made beforehand, and no embarrassing situations are apt to occur.

When one calls on a friend who lives in a flat, she should, immediately after ringing, call through the tube her name and that of the person she wishes to see.

A man leaves his overcoat, hat, and stick in the hall when making an evening call; when calling in the afternoon he leaves his overcoat in the hall, but carries his hat and stick into the drawing-room with him.

When a daughter is in the parlor, and her mother is entertaining callers, she should rise when her mother does in bidding them good-day.

It is very improper for a young girl who is ill to receive men callers in her room.

CARDS.

When an invitation to a reception is sent in the name of several women, a guest should leave or send cards for all whose names are on the invitation. A woman leaves with her own cards the cards of those members of her family who are unable to call.

A young woman, when calling upon her friends with a young man who is a stranger

to them, should send his card with her own to the hostess and other women of the household.

In making formal calls a visitor invariably hands her cards to the servant who opens the door with a card tray in her hand; when calling informally one may simply give her name to the servant at the door, but then leaves no card later.

A married woman, when making formal calls, leaves one of her husband's and one of her own cards for the hostess and for every other woman she asks for in the house, and one of her husband's cards, besides, for the host; but, while this is the rule for formal visiting, it is quite permissible for a married woman, when calling on a number of women who reside in the same house, to leave, besides her own and her husband's for the host and hostess, only one more of each for all the others.

In making formal visits, and subsequent calls after the first formal visit has been made, a married woman need leave only one of her husband's cards with her own; and in making a call in acknowledgment of an invitation to an entertainment to which she alone was invited,—such as a woman's luncheon,—she should leave only one of her own.

The fashionable visiting card varies in size; but for a married woman it is generally

pure white and very thin, with the name engraved in ordinary script. For a woman who lives in the country, it is in good taste to have the name of her country place put just where, if she were in the city, her town address would be, which is in the left hand lower corner.

If a woman receives "at home" cards for "Tuesdays in February," and is prevented from calling on any of the Tuesdays, she should send her card in an envelope, either by hand or mail, on the first Tuesday, and call on the hostess at the earliest opportunity on some other day.

A man should use a card engraved, as "Mr. George Wellington Smith," not omitting the prefix, with the address in one corner, if desired. The size of the card varies from time to time, but it is smaller than a woman's card.

The names of mother and daughter or daughters are often engraved on one card; as,

MRS. JUDSON BROWN.

MISS ANNA BROWN.

MRS. JUDSON BROWN.

THE MISSES BROWN.

The following is the usual form for an unmarried woman's card:

MISS MAY BROWN,

12 PINE ST.

It is quite proper for a woman to retain her deceased husband's name on her visiting cards; as, "Mrs. John Smith." It is equally proper for her to use "Mrs. Jane Smith" for the purpose.

When a caller is met by the hostess at the door, she should drop her card in the card receiver or leave it on the hall table on her way out. The object of such a card is not to introduce people when visiting, but as a reminder of the visit.

"P. P. C." cards should be left on the occasion of a long absence (of over three

months); on leaving town at the close of the season; on leaving a neighborhood where one has resided for years, or where one has resided for months and sometimes only for weeks, but not when changing houses in the same neighborhood, not even when about to be married, unless one's future home is to be in another city. The words *pour prendre congé* signify to take leave.

"R. S. V. P." means "*Repondez s'il vous plait*," which is the French for "Answer, if you please."

Turning down the corner of a visiting card, meaning that the call was made in person, is no longer in vogue. One might leave her card in person, writing on it "With kind inquiries," when sickness or death has entered the household of a friend, and thus show a delicate courtesy.

It is proper for a hostess to shake hands with a man visitor on his arrival and at his departure.

It is an evidence of very bad taste for a young woman to send wedding cards to a married man without including his wife's name, even if she has no acquaintance whatever with her.

A young girl who is not "out" does not have visiting cards. If she is the oldest or only daughter and is in society, her cards have upon them "Miss Smith."

A woman should never ask a man formally calling to take his hat, or a woman to lay aside her wraps.

A card sent to an afternoon reception represents one's self. It should be sent either by mail or messenger, and never by a friend to deposit upon the receiver with her own card.

VISITING.

A guest should always ascertain what are the usual hours of rising, taking meals, and retiring, and then conform scrupulously to them.

Guests should give as little trouble as possible, and never apologize for the extra trouble their visit necessarily occasions.

If a ride, drive, or walk is proposed by one of the family entertaining, a guest should acquiesce as far as her strength will allow, and do all in her power to seem pleased by the efforts made for her entertainment.

Upon taking one's departure, it is expected—and reasonably, too—that some acknowledgment be made of the pleasure that has been afforded one.

It is also proper upon returning home to inform the friends just left of one's safe arrival.

CHAPTER II.

NOTES OF INVITATION, ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS, WEDDING INVITATIONS, AC- CEPTANCES AND REGRETS, LET- TERS, LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION.

"Politeness is one of those advantages which we never estimate rightly, but by the inconvenience of its loss."—*Samuel Johnson.*

NOTES OF INVITATION.

Notes of invitation for evening parties are issued in the name of the lady of the house; as,

*Mrs. James Little requests the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. George White's company on Monday evening, March seventeenth, from nine to twelve o'clock.**

The expression "presents compliments" is obsolete, as is also the term "polite," which was formerly used in acceptances or regrets. The English form of "kind" or "very kind" is now substituted in its place.

*It is now quite common to omit marks of punctuation at the end of lines in an invitation.

A very acceptable form of invitation for a mother (if the mother is not living, the father's name may be so used) and daughter is this:

Mrs. and Miss Graves at Home, Thursday, October twenty-seventh, from eight to eleven o'clock.

When a very large dinner party is to be given, the invitations should be issued at least two weeks in advance; and if some very celebrated people are to be invited, twenty-one days should elapse between sending out the invitations and the day of the function. For a small affair ten days' notice is sufficient. Invitations to large teas should be sent out fourteen days in advance, but for small ones a week's notice is sufficient.

In answering an invitation sent out in the name of both mother and daughter, one should address the mother.

When sending out invitations to evening parties, it is customary to denote the amusement feature, if there is to be one, by naming it in the lower left hand corner; as, "Dancing," or "Cards," or "Fancy dress and masks." The hour is designated thus: "Dancing after nine," or "German at eight o'clock," or "Supper at half after seven," and underneath "Dancing." Sometimes a

separate card is enclosed, reading "Dancing at nine o'clock."

Mrs. George Brown requests the pleasure of Miss Lee's company on Tuesday evening, January seventh, at nine o'clock.

Dancing. 221 Thirty-fifth Street.

The correct form of invitation for an entertainment where an elocutionist is to be the principal feature is worded as follows:

Mrs. James Smith requests the pleasure of Mr. and Mrs. Brown's company on Thursday evening, December the first, at eight o'clock.

124 Jewell Avenue.

Reading by Professor William White.

An invitation to a rose or lawn party might read thus:

MRS. JAMES SMITH.

THE MISSES SMITH.

AT HOME

TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE THE TWENTY-EIGHTH,

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.

ROSE PARTY

TO MEET

212 SHERIDAN AVENUE.

THE MISSES WHITE.

In writing invitations for a club for which one is acting as secretary it would be wise to put them in the third person, and then there would be no embarrassment about the arrangement of names.

The words "reception" and "at home" are synonymous. Each means an entertainment which takes place between certain stated hours in the afternoon or evening, where refreshments are served, and no especial order of amusement is provided, unless it is specified in the invitations. To a "reception" or "at home" the hostess generally sends invitations to all on her calling list. These large functions are usually given for some especial purpose; as, to introduce a *débutante* into society, to celebrate a wedding anniversary, or for the bride and groom after the wedding ceremony, or merely that the hostess may meet all her friends.

There is, however, a decided distinction between a reception or an "at-home" and a tea or "days." An invitation to the first is engraved on a sheet of note paper or a large sized card, and is formally worded. The hours for the afternoon function are usually from four until seven, and one may expect to find at the house or place of entertainment decorations of flowers and greens, and quite an elaborate repast provided; but an invitation to a tea or to "days" does not imply that anything but the simplest kind of menu will be served, nor that any but simple preparations will be made. The invitations to the latter entertainments may be the hostess's visiting cards with the

address and "tea at four o'clock" written in one corner; or if the hostess prefers to receive informally on more than one day, she may have the form "Fridays," or "Fridays in February," or "First and third Fridays in February," or whatever days she chooses, written or engraved on her cards.

The formal luncheon hour is from one to two o'clock. Afternoon teas are usually at five. One's visiting card can be used only for an invitation for an afternoon "at home;" invitations to dinner or luncheon must be written out. In sending out cards for a tea one should simply write the date and the hour in the lower left-hand corner; in sending a note, whether by messenger or post, the number of the house and the name of the street should be written out in full.

The following is a good form of invitation to an "at home" given by several women:

MRS. JAMES SMITH

MRS. CHARLES WHITE

MRS. FREDERICK BROWN

AT HOME

SATURDAY, APRIL THE SIXTEENTH

AT FOUR O'CLOCK

112 MADISON STREET

The usual form of an invitation to a luncheon is as follows:

MRS. JAMES BROWN
REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY
AT LUNCHEON
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL THE SIXTH,
AT ONE O'CLOCK.

Below this and to the right would be the address, and the date on which the invitation is written.

The invitation for a musical may be worded as follows:

Mrs. James Smith requests the pleasure of Miss Brown's company on Friday afternoon, March seventeenth, at two o'clock.

Music.
R. S. V. P.

24 Queen Avenue.

ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS.

The simplest way to announce an engagement is for each of the engaged couple to write short notes of announcement on the same day to each one's relatives and near friends. All these notes are sent so that they will be received at the same time. They are written in the first person on dainty note paper, and the best form is the simplest. The character of the note must depend on the intimacy between the writer and the recipient.

A pretty and fashionable sequence to the announcement is for the bride to give a tea

for the express purpose of receiving congratulations. She may mention it in her notes of announcement, and her *fiancé* may mention in his notes that she will be at home on a certain day at a certain hour. She should then receive with her mother or some older relative, and she should have some light refreshment provided for her callers. All her young friends will call, and all the relatives and near friends of her *fiancé*. The *fiancé* should be present at the tea, or he may come before it is over, but he should not formally receive with his betrothed.

Engagements are often announced in the newspapers.

Wedding announcements or invitations should be sent in envelopes addressed to the father and mother of the family, to the daughter or daughters (addressed as the Misses), and to each of the grown sons. All these invitations in their envelopes may be enclosed in an outside envelope addressed to the parents.

A wedding invitation or announcement card should always be addressed to both members of a married couple, even if the bride or groom who sends it is acquainted with only one.

The correct form for wedding announcement cards is as follows:

MR. AND MRS. JOHN SMITH
ANNOUNCE THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER,
ANNA
TO
MR. FRANK BROWN
ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER THE TWENTY-SECOND,
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The bride's "at home" cards should be separate, but enclosed with the announcements, and should read as follows:

AT HOME
TUESDAY AFTERNOONS IN JANUARY.
125 WEST FIFTEENTH STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

Announcement cards should be sent out immediately after the wedding to every one on the bride's and groom's list. And, again, wedding announcement cards need not be sent out in any one's name. The following is an example:

MARRIED
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY THE EIGHTEENTH,
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE
AT ST. THOMAS' CHURCH
NEW YORK,
MARGARET BAKER WHITE
TO
WILLIAM BARTON.

When a bride is an orphan it is customary for the cards announcing her wedding to be sent in the name of one of her near relatives, or else they may read simply like the one given above.

Wedding announcement cards demand no acknowledgment from an acquaintance of the bride who lives at a distance, unless a "day" or "days" are mentioned on them, when it is obligatory to send visiting cards on the "day" or the first one of the "days;" otherwise, if one wishes to be particularly polite, one may send a visiting-card in acknowledgment of the announcement, but it is not obligatory to do so.

Wedding announcements are sent to friends at home as well as to those abroad, because the cards are supposed, not only to suggest remembrance, but to express a desire that the acquaintance should be continued after the name is changed.

The birth of a baby is announced in various ways, there being no especial rules of etiquette for making the announcement. Sometimes engraved cards bearing the baby's name and date of birth are sent by themselves in small envelopes, into which they fit exactly; sometimes they go in an envelope with the mother's visiting-card, and are written instead of engraved. These cards should be attached to the mother's visiting

cards by a piece of white baby ribbon, which is passed through a hole made in the top of both cards and tied in a tiny bow. They should be sent out when the mother is ready to receive calls.

WEDDING INVITATIONS.

Wedding invitations should be issued at least two weeks before the day of the affair.

It is customary for the bridegroom to give to the bride's mother a list of his relatives and friends to whom he would like cards sent, and some member of the bride's family attends to it.

When the guests at a wedding are limited to the immediate family, the invitations may be personal notes sent by the bride's mother. The notes may read like the following:

My Dear Mary,—It will give us all much pleasure if you will come to the very quiet wedding of my daughter Catherine to Mr. John Martin, on Saturday, February the fourth, at twelve o'clock, and remain to the little breakfast that will follow the ceremony. Only the members of the family will be present. Hoping that you may be with us the fourth, I am,

*Affectionately yours,
Anna Brown.*

A formal invitation may read as follows:

MR. AND MRS. JAMES M. MOORE
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR PRESENCE AT
THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER
ALICE
TO
CHARLES ALBERT SMITH,
THURSDAY EVENING, AUGUST TWENTY-FOURTH,
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK,
121 SEVENTH STREET EAST,
DAVENPORT, IOWA,
1899.

Another form is as follows:

MR. AND MRS. JOHN BROWN
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE
MARRIAGE BREAKFAST OF THEIR DAUGHTER
MARY LOUISE
AND
MR. CHARLES ALBERT SMITH,
ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER THE SIXTH,
FROM ONE UNTIL THREE O'CLOCK.
15 PROSPECT STREET.

If the bride is an orphan, or if there is any very good reason why her parents' names should not appear on the invitation, the latter may be sent in the name of the married brother and his wife, or in the name of whoever gives the bride the wedding reception. It may read as follows:

PRACTICAL ETIQUETTE.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES SMITH
REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR SISTER
BERTHA WILD
TO

MR. JAMES MONTGOMERY BROWN,
ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER THE TWELFTH,
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.
2400 FIFTH STREET SOUTH.

The following is a suitable form for an invitation for a silver wedding:

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.
MR. AND MRS. JOHN H. SMITH
AT HOME
SATURDAY EV'G, DECEMBER TWENTY-SEVENTH,
EIGHTEEN HUNDRED NINETY NINE,
FROM EIGHT TO ELEVEN O'CLOCK.

ACCEPTANCES AND REGRETS.

It is considered very rude not to reply to an invitation immediately, either by note of acceptance or regret.

In writing acceptances one should never use "will accept" for "accepts," or "to dinner" instead of "for dinner" or "to dine."

In accepting a dinner invitation one should repeat the hour named in order that, if any mistake has been made, it may be corrected.

An acceptance may be written as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Warren accept with pleasure Mrs. John Somers' kind invitation for Monday evening, October seventh.

The following is a good form for a note of regret:

Mr. and Mrs. James Swift regret that, owing to sickness, they are unable to accept Mrs. Frank Hall's kind invitation for Monday evening, March 16th.

In writing regrets, when it is possible to do so, one should give the reason for not accepting an invitation.

The best bred people agree that an invitation to a wedding reception or a wedding breakfast demands a response, whether or not a response is requested. But it is another question when one receives only an invitation to a church ceremony, or merely an announcement card with no "at home" card enclosed, and does not know the bride and groom well enough to call. If the cards are sent merely as a matter of courtesy because of business relations or on account of a former intimacy in the families, a call does not seem necessary. In such cases one must judge more or less for herself, and do what seems natural. If one lives in a small place and the bride comes there as a stranger, it is generally the best way to call, whatever be the form of the cards received.

Formal invitations to a church wedding do not demand an answer, unless one is requested, until the day of the ceremony, when those unable to attend acknowledge the invitation with visiting cards addressed to the father and mother of the bride, or to whoever sends out the invitations for the wedding. Invitations to a wedding reception and a bride's "At Home" demand no other acknowledgment than visiting cards sent on the day of the function by those unable to attend. A formal invitation to a house wedding demands the same acknowledgment as an invitation to a church wedding.

In acknowledging an invitation to a wedding, a single woman sends one of her visiting cards in an envelope addressed to the mother and father of the bride on the day of the wedding. A single man sends two of his cards, and a married couple send one of the wife's and two of the husband's cards. To the bride on her "At Home" day, cards should be sent in exactly the same way. A wedding reception, if it takes place in the evening, demands full dress.

It is very courteous to acknowledge the reception of a "commencement" invitation.

It is very bad form to write "Congratulations" on one's visiting card and send it in answer to a wedding invitation. If one

desires to send her good wishes to the bride, then a personal note would be proper.

It is also bad form to send a visiting card with "Regrets" written in one corner instead of writing the proper note.

If, having accepted an invitation, one changes her mind, she certainly ought to give some reason when writing a note of apology.

LETTERS.

In writing letters and notes of invitation, acceptance, regrets, or introduction, certain and specific rules of etiquette, ordained by custom, hold despotic sway; and unless one is acquainted with these, he must be considered by those who are, as more or less uncultivated.

In addressing an envelope one surely ought to know that the first line of the address should be at or below the middle of the envelope, and the address should be written in a plain hand devoid of flourishes. The place for the stamp is always the upper right-hand corner.

In no way is one's culture sooner made known than by his manner of writing a note or letter.

In a formal business letter or in one commencing "Dear Sir" or "Dear Madam," the name of the person addressed is put at

the end of the letter in the left-hand corner, but it should not be repeated, if it is used at the head of the letter.

The writing of notes in the third person is now confined to notes of invitations, acceptance, and regret.

Nothing would show greater ignorance than signing one's name to a note written in the third person.

In addressing a clergyman it is customary to commence with "Reverend Sir." Doctors of Divinity and of Medicine are thus distinguished: "The Rev. James Swift, D. D.," or "Rev. Dr. Swift;" "I. G. Latham, M. D.," or "Dr. Latham."

In writing to servants, it is customary to begin thus: "To Mary Bates,—Mrs. White wishes, etc."

When a woman is writing to strangers who will not know whether to address her in reply as "Mrs." or "Miss," the address of the writer should be given in full, after signing her letter, as, "Mrs. Jane Smith," followed by the direction; or, if unmarried, the "Miss" should be placed in marks of parenthesis preceding the signature. One should never sign her name as "Mrs." or "Miss."

The formal manner of address in a note or letter written in the first person, is, 'My

Dear Mrs. Brown;" the less formal is "Dear Mrs. Brown." To an intimate friend one may use either. "Dear Mary" is less formal than "My Dear Mary," and yet to one who is near, the real significance of the latter form is very sweet and full of tender meaning. However, there are no rigid laws to regulate the correspondence of friends.

When a woman writes a personal note to a man, no matter how slight her acquaintance may be with him, it should begin "My Dear Mr. Brown."

Ordinary social correspondence, when forwarded by the hand of an adult socially equal with the sender, should not be sealed. If, for some reason, a letter must be sealed, then the post or some other method of letter conveyance should be used.

The form "Addressed" on an envelope is merely the relic of an old legal form that has no especial significance nowadays, but is put on the envelope as a matter of courtesy. It means that the contents of the envelope are for the person whose name is written on the outside. It is very seldom used, and is quite superfluous.

Only letters of unmarried women and widows are addressed with their baptismal names. All letters of married women should bear their husband's names; as, "Mrs. John Howe."

Writing on the first, then on the third, then crosswise on the second and fourth pages of a letter, facilitates the reading and is in perfectly good form.

It is very bad taste for a doctor's wife to assume his title. An invitation addressed to them should read "Dr. and Mrs. Jones."

One should not write "Mrs. John Brown, *née* Lottie Smith," because one is not born with a Christian name; instead, one would write "Mrs. John Brown, *née* Smith."

The use of perfumed stationery is not general, nor is it in good taste.

Any letter of congratulation received, even though it be from a person with whom one has only a slight acquaintance, requires an answer.

No matter how fond a young girl may feel of a man whom she has known for years, any letters, when trouble comes to his family, should be addressed to his wife and not to him.

The fashion that obtains with reference to placing the date on a letter is to place it in the upper right-hand corner; on a note it is usually placed in the lower left-hand corner.

A young girl who receives letters from a man at the post-office without the knowledge of her mother is doing something

wrong, which in time she will certainly regret, and which, it is equally certain, will result in trouble.

It is not in the best taste to write letters of friendship on the typewriter, but it will always be excused in the busy woman.

LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION.

Letters of introduction are to be regarded as certificates of respectability and esteem, and should only be given by friends of the person introduced and to friends. They should be brief and carefully worded, intimating the mutual pleasure that one feels the acquaintance will confer, but not complimenting the bearer so openly that he will feel embarrassed in delivering the letter. Such letters are left unsealed.

There is no greater insult than to treat a letter of introduction with indifference. A person thus introduced ought to be called upon at once, and shown any other little attention within one's power. In England letters of introduction are called "tickets to soup."

In England the party holding a letter of introduction never takes it himself, but sends it with his card. On the Continent the reverse is the fashion. In America the English custom prevails, though where a young man has a letter to one many years

his senior or to one who is to aid him in some enterprise, he takes it himself at once.

A letter of introduction should be somewhat like the following:

My Dear Mr. Barnes:

This note will introduce to you my friend, Mr. Charles Smith, whom I know you will be as glad to meet as he will be glad to meet you.

Mr. Smith is an old friend of mine, and any kindness you may be able to show him will be very much appreciated by me.

Faithfully yours,

Anna Martin White.

Before giving a letter of introduction one should be certain that the persons introduced will be congenial to each other. Such a letter puts a certain obligation on the person to whom it is addressed: he will be obliged to show the bearer some attention and hospitality. It is, therefore, not right to make the demand of a friend unless one is certain that the acquaintanceship will compensate him for the trouble he may take.

CHAPTER III.

DINNERS, LUNCHEONS, BREAKFASTS, TEAS, RECEPTIONS, DANCING PARTIES, CARDS, PARTIES, WEDDINGS, WEDDING GIFTS, WEDDING ANNI- VERSARIES.

"Manners aim to facilitate life, to get rid of impediments."

DINNERS.*

A "dinner" is supposed to be an elaborate affair, with numerous courses and ample service, and is usually given at seven or eight o'clock in the evening. At a dinner the number of courses naturally varies according to the taste and financial condition of the hostess. (For arrangement of the table, see Chapter VI.)

For a formal dinner the courses usually consist of soup, fish, a roast with one or more vegetables, a salad, an ice or ice cream, cakes, bonbons, and black coffee. Olives and salted almonds, jellies, etc., generally appear in some of the courses.

*In looking up any one point in this book,—as "dinners," for instance,—one will be obliged sometimes to refer to more than one place. Chapter II., under "Notes of Invitation," and Chapter I., under its three different heads, contain more or less information concerning "dinners," which it seems difficult to classify any more closely than has been done.

Although the following really belongs under the head of "The Table" and "Service at Table," a repetition here may not come amiss.

The attendant places each dish, in succession, before the host or hostess with the pile of plates. Each plate is supplied, taken by the attendant on a small salver, and set, from the left, before the guest. A second dish which belongs to the course is presented at the left of the guest, who helps himself. As a rule the woman at the right of the host, or the eldest woman, should be served first. As soon as a course is finished, the plates are promptly removed, and the next course is served in the same way. Before the dessert is brought on, all crumbs should be brushed from the cloth. The finger bowls, which are brought in on a napkin on a dessert-plate and set at the left of the plate, are used by dipping the fingers in lightly and drying them on the napkin. They should be half full of warm water with a bit of lemon floating in it. When all have finished dessert, the hostess gives the signal, by pushing back her chair, that dinner is ended, and the guests repair to the drawing-room, the oldest leading and the youngest following last, the men passing into the library or smoking-room.

Seemingly, one should arrive at the house where one is invited to a dinner or a

luncheon at exactly the hour mentioned in the invitation; but the proper thing at a formal function is to get to the house ten minutes after the hour of the meal, and to be announced in the drawing-room five minutes later.

The host, with the guest of honor, leads the way into the dining-room at a dinner; at a luncheon the hostess leads the way alone or with one of the guests.

Fifteen minutes is the longest time required to wait for a tardy guest when the dinner hour was understood, as it always should be.

If the hostess thinks the visitor has no acquaintances in the room, she introduces her to two or three persons who are near her, and then, counting on her knowledge of the customs of society, she will feel quite sure that her guest will enjoy herself.

A hostess should never reprove a servant before a guest, as it is unpleasant for all concerned, and by passing over the annoyance herself, it may escape the attention of others.

No accident must seem to disturb a hostess, no disappointment embarrass her.

At formal dinner parties the servant who is detailed to attend to the wants of the men guests hands each one, as he leaves the

dressings-room, an envelope containing a card bearing the name of the woman whom he is to take to dinner.

LUNCHEONS.

Luncheons are usually given between the hours of one and two o'clock in the afternoon, and to them women only are invited. The menu is lighter than for a dinner, and generally consists of sherbets, oyster patties, scalloped oysters, sweet-breads, sandwiches, salads, ices, cheese sticks, fruit, ice cream, cakes, bonbons, salted almonds, olives, and black coffee, served in such number and order of courses as best suits the hostess.

BREAKFASTS.

The difference between a breakfast and a luncheon is very slight. On the invitation the word breakfast is used instead of luncheon, and the hour is earlier than for a luncheon. Also men and woman may meet together for a breakfast, and therefore a few more solid courses are advisable. Otherwise one may be guided entirely in giving the entertainment by the rules which apply to a luncheon.

TEAS.

A tea is the simplest and easiest kind of an entertainment to give, for the only essential requisites for its success are prettily

arranged receiving-rooms, with as many flowers as one can afford; a gracious hostess, who stands during the hours of the function to receive her guests and is properly dressed in a becoming high-necked house dress; a few other women, who also receive in pretty dresses; and a dainty tea table, which may be presided over by a woman friend or two of the hostess. It is only necessary to serve a modest menu of tea, chocolate or bouillon, assorted sandwiches, fancy cakes, and bonbons. The other factors to the tea's success are pleasant weather and well trained servants, who may assist in serving the tea and are alert to open and close the door for the guests.

At a formal function of any kind the guests leave their wraps in dressing-rooms, where one or more maids should be on hand to assist women in their dressing-room, and a man to perform the same services in the men's dressing-room; but at a small tea, where, as a rule, the guests do not remove their street wraps, it is only necessary to have a maid in the entrance hall to be ready, if called on, to do any service.

It is not customary to offer refreshments to casual evening callers; but if one has a regular evening for receiving, she may have a tea table in the drawing-room, and serve tea, chocolate, sandwiches, cake, etc., as in entertaining on the afternoon of a "day."

RECEPTIONS.

On the day of the reception, the hostess, with her assistants, should receive the guests, standing at the door of the drawing-room. The refreshment tables should be spread in the dining-room, and prettily decorated with flowers, candles in candelabra or candlesticks, dishes of bonbons and cakes, plates of sandwiches, and platters of salad. A bouillon urn may stand at one end of the table with cups, and coffee may be served from the other end. All that is necessary for the menu is bouillon, easily prepared in the house from canned bouillon, jellied tongue, chicken salad, and sandwiches, ices and cake, fruit, and candies. Coffee and lemonade will suffice for beverages. If one can afford to have a few pieces of music, so much the better. The musicians should play from some hidden nook. One or two servants in the dining-room, and one to open and shut the front door, will be all that are necessary.

DANCING PARTIES.

For the form of invitation refer to Chapter II.

In selecting a company for a dancing party the hostess will naturally choose only those who dance, and she should see, as far as possible, that all the women are provided with partners.

It is better to dance first with one acquaintance and then with another, rather than to make one's self conspicuous by giving a great number of dances to one man.

A man gives the first and last dances to his partner of the evening.

No man should invite a young woman to attend a dress affair without providing a carriage for her. When the party is small and informal, it is allowable to go on the street-cars.

At the end of the dance, the man should offer his arm to his partner, and take at least one turn around the room before consigning her to her seat.

A man who can dance, and will not, ought to remain away from a ball.

If for any reason a girl should refuse to dance with one man, she should not accept another invitation for the same dance.

An invitation to a ball may be asked for a friend who is a stranger in town, and has had no opportunity of making the acquaintance of the one who gives the ball.

A man should not ask a girl, to whom he has been introduced for the purpose of dancing with her, for more than two dances the same evening.

CARD PARTIES.

If given, prizes should be carefully chosen, so that they may be in good taste and

desirable. The supper should be served at the card tables after the the playing is over. A large napkin should be spread on the top of each table, and the refreshments served in courses.

WEDDINGS.

For invitation forms see Chapter II.

When a wedding takes place in a church that has but one entrance, the customary way for the bridal procession to enter is for the groom and best man to walk in just behind the minister, a little before the others, and to take their places at the altar; then the ushers enter, walking two by two; then the bridesmaids in the same order; then the maid of honor alone; and last the bride on her father's arm. The bride's family enter the church a few minutes before the minister and the groom and bridal party.

A bride goes up to the altar with her veil over her face, but comes down with it thrown back. It is the duty of the maid of honor to throw it back immediately after the ceremony is ended.

When the bride's mother gives her away at a church ceremony, she usually walks up the aisle with the bride. After she has given her to the groom, she steps quietly and unescorted to the front pew, where she stays during the remainder of the service.

The bride may walk up the aisle with an attendant instead of with her mother, who in this case steps from her seat in the front pew to the chancel when the time comes for her to officiate, and steps back to her seat afterwards.

The bride and the groom should stand at the wedding reception until they have received the congratulations of all present, then, together, they should walk into the room where the breakfast is to be served. The others follow as they please, with the exception of the parents on both sides. The groom's father usually escorts the bride's mother, and *vice versa*.

It is not the custom for a bride to remove her gloves at the wedding. The inside seam of the ring finger of the glove should be ripped beforehand; and when the time comes for the ring to be put on, the bride merely slips off this glove finger, and puts it back again after the ring is on her finger.

At no wedding service is it proper for the bride to enter the church alone.

At a church or house wedding where the bride walks up the aisle with her sister acting as the maid of honor, instead of with a gentleman escort, she need not take the arm of her attendant, as both the ladies will look more graceful if walking separately. The maid of honor should carry a bouquet,

and the bride a bouquet, prayer-book, or bible.

At a home wedding the bride enters the room on the arm of her father. With a short dress she would not wear a veil.

The wearing of gloves at an informal wedding is entirely a matter of taste. Recently at several large weddings they were omitted by the entire bridal party.

The prettiest way to make an aisle for the bridal party at a house wedding is for four children to enter the room where the ceremony will be, just before the bridal party comes in, and separate the guests into two groups by stretching two pieces of white ribbon the length of the room. A child stands at each end of the two pieces of ribbon, holding it while the bridal party walks up between them, and during the service. Ushers may hold the ribbons instead of the children, or the ends may be fastened around plants which are placed at the requisite points.

Where there is no side door through which the groom and best man may enter the room at a house wedding, they come in by the principal door just before the bridal party and just after the minister.

It is not customary for the men at a wedding party to kiss the bride; that is a lib-

erty taken only by the immediate members of the family.

A bride, if she wishes, may omit the bridal veil, but she should then wear a dainty bonnet or picture hat. The ushers and best men are invited by the bridegroom.

If the church wedding is a full dress one, followed by an evening reception, it is proper to wear an evening gown. If it is in the daytime, a handsome visiting dress and pretty bonnet are proper.

At a daytime wedding the guests seldom remove their bonnets, although, of course, heavy wraps are frequently laid aside. At an evening affair one goes in full dress without anything on one's head. The ushers present the guests to the bridal party. The bridesmaids are spoken to by the people they know, but it is not necessary that they should be addressed by everybody.

A bride may wear her wedding dress after her wedding day as much or as little as she chooses. For the sake of sentiment many brides like to preserve their wedding dresses intact to hand down to future generations; but a girl who has to consider economy cannot afford to consider sentiment, and often the wedding dress is converted into a low dinner and evening gown soon after the wedding day. A bride may,

with perfect propriety, wear her wedding dress to the reception given her after her wedding by the groom's mother. Of course, she will wear it just as it was when she was married, high in the neck, unless the reception takes place in the evening and demands evening dress, when, according to the conventions, it must be cut low.

A bridegroom is always expected to furnish the bouquets that the bride, bridesmaids, and all the bride's attendants carry at the wedding. He should learn from the bride the flowers she wishes, and should order them several days before the wedding, so that they may be ready at the bride's house when the bridesmaids meet there to go together to the church or to the place where the ceremony is held.

Besides furnishing these bouquets, the groom provides the ushers and best men with their *boutonnieres*, and gives them also some small souvenir, and, if he wishes, a bachelor dinner or supper a day or two before the wedding.

There are no wedding luncheons nowadays. Every entertainment of the kind up to two o'clock is called a breakfast, and when it takes place in the afternoon or evening it is called a reception.

WEDDING GIFTS.

The idea that a wedding invitation neces-

sitates a present has, sensibly enough, gone out of fashion, and only those who are bound by ties of blood or close friendship have the privilege of sending a gift to the bride.

Presents should be sent as soon after receiving the invitations as possible. All wedding gifts, even from friends of the groom who may never have met the bride, are sent to the bride; and, if marked, they should be engraved with the initials or monogram of the bride's maiden name, or they may have her name in full.

Wedding presents should be acknowledged by the bride-elect in a short personal note, which should be written and sent immediately on receipt of the present.

When several friends combine in giving a present to the bride, she should write a letter of thanks to each one separately, sending the letters by post.

It is perfectly proper to open a gift in the presence of the giver, and express one's pleasure and gratitude on the spot. Indeed, it is much better form to do so than to wait until the giver has gone.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES.

The paper wedding, so termed, is celebrated one year after marriage. Invitations should be issued on heavy gray paper or

thin card-board. Presents may consist of any article made of paper or *papier maché*; such, for instance, as books, engravings, etc.

The wooden wedding is celebrated five years after marriage. Invitations may be issued upon wooden cards, or wooden cards may be inclosed with an invitation written or engraved upon a sheet of wedding note paper. The presents may be anything made of wood, from a mustard spoon to a house or set of furniture.

The tin wedding comes ten years after marriage. Invitation cards are sometimes covered with tin foil, or tin cards are inclosed, or, if preferred, the invitation is printed on tin bronze paper. Presents should consist of articles made of tin.

The crystal wedding, fifteen years after marriage, is next in order. Cards may be issued upon transparent paper, or upon note paper with a card of isinglass inclosed.

The china wedding takes place twenty years after marriage. Semi-transparent cardboard will answer for the invitations.

The silver wedding is celebrated on the twenty-fifth anniversary, and is generally an occasion of much more importance than any of the foregoing anniversaries. The invitations may be printed on silver paper, and the presents are, of course, articles of silver.

The golden wedding, celebrated on the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage, may be said to be the one in which the young do homage to the old. It should be conducted by the near relatives or friends of the couple, and the occasion should be made one of retrospect, of encouragement, and of congratulation. The invitations should be on white paper in gold letters, and the presents should be of gold.

At each of these anniversaries it is customary to have the marriage ceremony re-performed, and all arrangements for the celebration are made in about the same manner as for the first marriage.



CHAPTER IV.

CONVERSATION, CHAPERONAGE, MARRIAGE, DOMESTIC ETIQUETTE AND DUTIES.

"Manners are not idle, but are the fruit of noble natures and of loyal minds."

CONVERSATION.

The late Dr. George Ripley was wont to say that the secret of being agreeable in conversation was to be honorable to the ideas of others. He affirmed that some people only half listened to you, because they were considering, even while you spoke, with what fine words, what wealth of wit, they should reply, and they began to speak almost before your sentence had died upon your lips. These people, he said, might be brilliant, witty, dazzling, but never could they be agreeable. You do not love to talk to them. You feel that they are impatient for their turn to come, and that they have no hospitality towards your thoughts—none of that gentle friendliness which asks your idea and makes much of it. This want of hospitality to other people's ideas often has its root in egotism, but it is equally apt to be the growth of a secret

want of self-confidence, a fear that one will not be ready to take one's own part well,—an uneasy self-consciousness which makes real sympathetic attention to the ideas of others impossible.

Agreeability, readiness in conversation, tact and graciousness of manner are great aids to popularity. To possess these qualities one must have marked consideration for others, and be ever ready to manifest it. One should also be ready to recall faces and names.

Though one has but few facts and ideas to draw upon, she may still, by making sufficient effort, become a fair conversationalist. If one despair in this direction, she may at least train herself to become an interesting listener, and she will be surprised to find how popular she will be; for three-quarters of the world like to talk, while to listen intelligently is a great talent. The good listener, by her evident interest in, and sympathetic attention to, the matter of conversation, brings out all that is best in the one with whom she talks. Diffident people forget their shyness in her presence, and leave her with the comfortable and novel conviction that they have, after all, acquitted themselves rather well.

No well-bred person would be guilty of the gross rudeness of picking up a book or

magazine and "looking through" it while pretending to pay heed to the talk of a friend. The assurance, "I am only looking at the pictures of this magazine, not reading, and I hear every word you say," is no palliation of the offence. The speaker would be justified in refusing to continue the conversation until the pictures had been properly studied. If a speech is worth hearing, it is worthy of respectful and earnest attention.

No one should ever monopolize the conversation, unless he wishes to win for himself the name of a bore.

A well-educated and finely cultured person proclaims himself by the simplicity and terseness of his language.

In conversation all provincialisms, affectations of foreign accents, mannerisms, exaggerations, and slang are detestable.

Flippancy is as much an evidence of ill-breeding as is the perpetual smile, the wandering eye, the vacant stare, or the half-open mouth of the man who is preparing to break in upon the conversation.

Interruption of the speech of others is a great sin against good breeding.

Anecdotes should be sparsely introduced into a conversation, lest they become stale. Repartee must be indulged in with moderation. Puns are considered vulgar by many.

In addressing persons with titles, one ought always to add the name; as, "What do you think, Doctor Graves?" not, "What do you think, Doctor?"

The great secret of talking well is to adapt one's conversation skillfully to the hearers.

In a *tête-à-tête* conversation, it is extremely ill-bred to drop the voice to a whisper, or to converse on private matters.

One should never try to hide the lips in talking by putting up the hand or a fan.

One should avoid long conversations in society with members of his own family.

If an unfinished conversation is continued after the entrance of a visitor, its import should be explained to him.

Though bores find their account in speaking ill or well of themselves, it is the characteristic of a gentleman that he never speaks of himself at all. La Buryere says: "The great charm of conversation consists less in the display of one's own wit and intelligence than in the power to draw forth the resources of others; he who leaves one after a long conversation, pleased with himself and the part *he* has taken in the discourse, will be the other's warmest admirer."

In society the absent-minded man is uncivil.

There are many persons who commence speaking before they know what they are going to say. The ill-natured world, which never misses an opportunity of being severe, declares them to be foolish and destitute of brains.

He who knows the world, will not be too bashful; he who knows himself, will not be imprudent.

There is no surer sign of vulgarity than the perpetual boasting of fine things at home.

One should be careful how freely he offers advice.

If one keeps silent sometimes upon subjects of which he is known to be a judge, his silence, when from ignorance, will not discover him.

One should not argue a point when it is possible to avoid it, but when he does argue, he should do so in a gentlemanly and dispassionate manner.

One should never notice any mistakes in the language of others.

CHAPERONAGE.

The foreign custom that makes a chaperone indispensable where young people are gathered together at places of public entertainment, has long obtained in the cities of the East, and in all conventional com-

munities everywhere. No really fashionable party is made up without a chaperone.

A young woman condemns herself in the eyes of good society who is observed to enter alone with a young man a place of public refreshment, be the restaurant or tea room ever so select. Bred under other conditions of a society so necessarily varying as that in our broad America, a stranger visiting New York, for instance, might readily and innocently make a mistake of this nature, and blush at finding herself condemned for it. In the same category of offenses is ranked that of maidens visiting places of public amusement under the escort of young men alone. Many parts of the South and West allow this to be done with the smiling consent of good society; but in Eastern cities it is considered a violation of good form, and for the comfort, if not the convenience, of the girl considering it, had better be ranked among the lost privileges upon which social evolution may look back with fond regret.

It is always wisest, when a number of young people are to have a party, to ask two or three married women to be present, not only for propriety's sake, but because there will then be no danger of anything unwished for happening, inasmuch as it is the duty of the chaperones to make all social entertainments smooth and pleasant.

When it is necessary for a girl to pay long visits to a dentist's office, she should be accompanied either by her mother, or some woman relative, or maid.

The etiquette of chaperonage is much less strict for a young widow than for an unmarried girl of the same age; but it is important and in good taste for a woman who is a widow to be very quiet and inconspicuous in all she does, giving by her behavior no opportunity for criticism.

MARRIAGE.

A young girl's own safety, as regards her present and future happiness, demands that she receive attentions from only the best of young men,—those of whom her reason would approve, if the acquaintance should lead to more than acquaintance.

Parents should carefully watch the young men who frequent their houses, in order to see that undesirable intimacies are not formed with their daughters, for friendships and intimacies soon lead to love.

Many a girl, feeling convinced that she had loved unwisely, has entered upon the married state with heart and reason at variance, when she might have given up the acquaintance, in the beginning of it, very easily.

The most perfect reserve in courtship, even in cases of the most ardent attachment,

is indispensable to the confidence and trust of married life to come.

All public display of devotion should be avoided, for it tends to lessen mutual respect, and it makes the actors ridiculous in the eyes of others. It is quite possible for a man to show every conceivable attention to the one to whom he is engaged, and yet to avoid committing the slightest offence against delicacy or good taste.

It is quite possible for a man to show attention, and even assiduity up to a certain point, without becoming a lover; and it is equally possible for the girl to let it be seen that he is not disagreeable to her, without actually encouraging him. No man likes to be refused, and no man of tact will risk a refusal.

Long engagements are usually entered into by people who are quite young, but who, for some reason, cannot marry. As the years go on their tastes may change, and yet each may feel that honor binds the one to the other. The woman chosen by a man when he is twenty-one is seldom the woman he would choose when he is forty. When people marry young they grow accustomed to each other, and, oddly enough, they grow to be alike; but during a long engagement their tastes are apt to change, and the result is apt to be anything

but a happy one. Of course, there are exceptions, but, generalizing, the long engagement is to be feared.

DOMESTIC ETIQUETTE AND DUTIES.

Etiquette is a comprehensive term, and its observances are nowhere more to be desired than in the domestic circle.

If husbands and wives, generally, would render each other half of the little attentions they lavished upon each other before marriage, their mutual happiness would be more than doubled.

A wife should never let her husband have cause to complain that she is more agreeable abroad than at home, nor see her negligent of dress and manners at home when it is the reverse in company.

If, unhappily, any misunderstandings or annoyances occur between husband and wife, it is ill-bred and unjust for either to repeat them to a third person.

Faithful unto death in all things should be the motto of both husband and wife; and forbearance with each other's peculiarities, their never-ending effort to attain.

If a girl discovers very soon after her marriage that she has made a mistake, it is wisest for her to make the best of it; she should look for all that is good in her husband and try to forget that which she dis-

likes. There are times when a legal separation is necessary, but when people marry they marry for better or for worse, and if, unfortunately, it should be for worse, even that does not release them from the solemn vows which they have taken.

It is not in good taste for a husband and wife to call each other by endearing names in the presence of others.

A man has no right whatever to open his wife's mail, but a woman should not receive any letters that she would not be willing that her husband should see.



CHAPTER V.

DRESS, GLOVES, STREET ETIQUETTE, TRAVELING, BICYCLING, TELE- PHONING.

"Refinement of character is said never to be found with vulgarity of dress."

DRESS.

In appropriateness our people have something to learn, as has the whole world, for that matter. Necklaces and jewels in the morning are monstrous, no matter what the fashion of the moment may be, and there will come a time when every one will look upon them with horror, as every one, indeed, used to do.

The day is past when latitude or great variety in dress is considered original. Clothes, if they are startling at all, must be startling in a degree to be borne. A train cannot be worn where only a short skirt is in order, nor can an abbreviated drapery go where full dress is required. A garden party, for instance, or an out-of-door tea at a private house demands a muslin, a silk, or, at any rate, an elaborate toilet, while at a golf club, such dress is absurd, except for the elderly or non-players. In winter, frills

and furbelows, if they are worn at all, are worn at large teas, the plain tailor-made suit having gone out for such purposes. However, it is difficult to follow the vagaries of fashion in these regards.

For morning wear, no dress can be too simple. Luncheons are growing more and more informal. When distances are great, however, and one dresses for calls in the part of town where the luncheon is, afterward, more elaborateness of dress is allowed.

The best advice to all girls upon the subject must be, not to be overdressed, nor yet to be careless in the matter. They should attire themselves according to their circumstances, and should, above all things, avoid all extremes of fashion, as well as all eccentricities of style.

Only quiet colors should be worn either to church or on the street, and wherever girls go they should endeavor to be unconscious of their personal appearance.

The woman who is overdressed at an afternoon reception is much more uncomfortable than she who is gowned with the simplicity of a Quaker. A well fitting wool gown, a becoming bonnet, a fresh pair of gloves, and one is suitably dressed as a caller.

A girl of fourteen should not wear her

hair done up, and her gown should come just below her ankles.

It is not in good taste for a young girl to wear diamond rings; if she is fortunate enough to possess them, let her keep them carefully until she is older, and then she may wear them with perfect propriety.

It is in very bad taste to wear a dressing-sacque when breakfasting in a public dining-room of a hotel. Such an undress costume is only permissible in one's own room.

A frock coat is, under no circumstances, a correct garment for a man to wear at an evening dance, neither is a Tuxedo or dinner coat. The proper dress is a full dress suit, with white vest and white string tie. Possibly a dinner coat might be allowable at a very small and very informal dance, but a frock coat never.

A man should wear a white tie with a dress suit at any large formal entertainment, such as a ball, the opera, a wedding reception, a large dinner party, etc., and on all occasions where he wears a white waistcoat. He should wear a black tie at the theater, at a small dinner, in calling, and at home with his dinner coat.

Evening dress may be as gay as one chooses to make it, though extremes are not desirable.

Dresses made a suitable length for walking are much more appropriate for the street than those that are so long that their wearers become street cleaners.

Neatness in a lady's dress is one of the first requisites.

To dress well requires good taste, good sense, and refinement.

The most appropriate and becoming dress is that which so harmonizes with the figure that the apparel is unobserved.

A hostess should be careful not to out-dress her guests.

When going out one should consider the sort of company she is likely to meet, and should dress accordingly.

The idea that "dress makes the man" is a very false one, but a man *does* make, or select, rather, his dress, and is judged somewhat in accordance with that selection.

At a five o'clock church wedding the groom, best man, and ushers all dress as nearly as possible alike. The proper costume or suit is a black frock coat, gray trousers, black or fancy vesting waist coat, white tie, *glacé* gloves, patent leather boots, and a tall hat.

GLOVES.

A young woman should of course wear gloves with a full evening dress to any kind of an evening entertainment.

On taking one's seat at a dinner table or a card table one may remove one's gloves, but not until then; and at the theater or opera, gloves should be worn throughout the performance and during the evening.

A man wears light or white kid gloves to the opera, dances, a reception, or any other formal evening entertainment, except a dinner.

It is usual to remove one's gloves when eating supper at an evening affair, unless merely a cup of bouillon or an ice may be chosen, and then there would be no impropriety in keeping on one's gloves.

A man wears gloves when calling, and removes them just before or just after entering the parlor. Tan gloves may be worn at all hours of the day; white or pearl ones are proper in the evening, when calling, or at any place of amusement.

No matter how long one's gloves are, they should be entirely taken off at supper, and be resumed again upon returning to the drawing-room or after using the finger bowls, and before arising from the feast.

To wear gloves while playing cards is an affectation of elegance.

STREET ETIQUETTE.

A man offers his right arm, if either, to a woman on the street (also in the house),

that she may have her right hand free for holding her parasol or guiding her train. Both common sense and gallantry assign the woman's place where it is for her greatest convenience, and that is, undeniably, on the right of the man.

The rule for giving the left arm was held good in those days when it was necessary for men to pass to the left, thus keeping the sword-arm free for self-protection or for the protection of the women, but now the passing is all to the right.

In walking with a woman a man chooses the outer side without any regard as to its being either the right or the left. In walking with two women he chooses the outer side also, and never walks between them.

A man walking with a woman returns a bow made to her, lifting his hat, although the one bowing is a stranger to him.

Ladies do not talk or call across the street.

Men should not smoke when driving or walking with women, nor on promenades much frequented, where they cannot remove the cigar from the mouth whenever meeting a woman.

One should never stare at another.

A man when meeting a woman who is walking and with whom he wishes to converse, does not allow her to stand while talking, but turns and walks with her.

A man cannot refuse to return the bow of any respectable woman. If he does not wish to recognize her he must avoid her.

It is much less rude for women to return a recognition coldly, and upon the next occasion to turn away or to avoid a meeting, than to give a "cut direct."

A man precedes a woman in passing through a crowd; but women precede men under ordinary circumstances.

It is not proper for a young girl to walk alone with a young man after dark, unless she is engaged to him or he is a near relative of hers. A young woman should meet a young man with whom she has only a slight acquaintance under her father's or a proper guardian's roof. When he has become well acquainted with her and her family or friends, she may take occasional walks with him alone in the afternoon, but never in the evening.

When two women meet in a door-way, the younger gives precedence to the elder.

A man does not first offer to shake hands with a woman unless he is very well acquainted with her.

When it becomes necessary for one to address a man or woman whose name one does not know, it should be as "Sir" or "Madam."

It is very bad taste for young women to eat candy during a theatrical performance, or indeed in any public place.

TRAVELING

One can travel all over the United States alone, and if she conducts herself quietly, and as a lady should, she will receive all due respect. At the same time it is perhaps a little wiser to have a friend with one, or even, if that is not possible, to be put in the care of some one who is making the same journey.

When a young woman is traveling alone and is obliged to stay at a hotel, she is shown to a reception room and sends for a clerk to come to her. After the business arrangements are made, she either gives him a card or tells him her name, and he registers for her. There is no reason why she should go into a public room or register herself.

It is not customary, unless one is without baggage, to pay in advance at a hotel.

Tips are usually given on leaving the steamer to the steward or stewardess, deck steward, head waiter, waiter of the particular table at which one has taken his meals, and any other servants who have made themselves useful to him during the voyage. The amount of the tips depends on the

amount of the service that has been required, varying from \$1 to \$5 for each. Living in lodgings abroad is much cheaper than living in hotels, and in most of the large cities such accommodations may be had at reasonable rates, and are very comfortable. The prices for lodging vary according to location, etc. A steamer trunk should suffice for a traveler who makes a short trip abroad and intends to spend all his time traveling and sight-seeing. Money for a short trip can be carried on the person, in a belt, or a pocket hung about the neck. For a trip of some length a letter of credit is more convenient, and can be obtained from any banking-house having foreign connections. In some countries traveling in the second-class carriages is very comfortable; in others it is not. In Italy a traveler can be comfortable only by traveling first-class; in France second-class is not bad; and in Germany and Great Britain it is perfectly comfortable, and preferable to first-class in many respects.

A rush and scramble at a railway ticket office is only carried on by ill-bred people, or by those who appear so at the time.

If a woman offers to seat herself beside a man, he should rise at once and give her the choice of seats.

No real gentlemen would be unmindful of the comfort and convenience of women, while traveling, from a selfish motive.

In the cars one has no right to keep a window open, if the current of air thus produced annoys another.

A woman should always be careful to thank a person for any little attention he may bestow upon her while traveling.

BICYCLING.

As to rules of politeness for bicyclers, one who is a true lady will show herself to be one as surely when riding a wheel as at any other time, not only by her costume, which will be unobtrusive in color, cut, and adjustment, but by her manner, which will be even more quiet and self-possessed than usual, as she well knows that by mounting a wheel she makes herself more or less conspicuous. It goes without saying that she will not ride fast enough to attract undue attention; that she will not chew gum; and that she will not allow advances from strangers, who may, like herself, be on a wheel, and, to all appearances, may be gentlemen. Neither will she ride off alone after dark, nor take long rides in the evening attended only by an escort. In the daytime, when out only with a man friend, she will avoid stopping to rest under the trees and in out of

the way places. Too much care cannot be taken, especially by young girls, as to appearances. Their very innocence and ignorance lays them open to criticism.

TELEPHONING.

For the benefit of those who but seldom make use of the telephone, and consequently feel more or less ill at ease when attempting to use one, and also for those who, from ignorance of the first laws of politeness, or who, from thoughtlessness, ignore them, a few hints upon the subject may not come amiss. It is after having called up "Central," and been given the number requested, that one often stands in need of no small amount of tact and good breeding, as well as of some idea of the best method of procedure. When there are several different persons using the same line, two or three of them may mistake the call for theirs, and all rush to the telephone at once. If at all stupid, or lacking in politeness, they will make it quite unpleasant for each other. The one entitled to speak should politely inquire for the one for whom she has called at the telephone, also giving her own name as the one delivering the message. If this does not suffice to enlighten those who sometimes keep calling "hello," "hello," without waiting to learn if they are the ones desired, the one talking should again announce her-

self, and the name of the one to whom she wishes to speak. Then, occasionally, even while in the midst of a conversation, some one will break in with a "Hello!" "Who is it?" "What do you want?" etc., which is quite distracting. If one can gain a hearing in no other way, it is well to say: "Excuse me, I hold the line." If this does not bring order out of chaos, one should ring off and call again.

One should be careful not to call up friends at inconvenient hours, and when one is notified by a servant, or otherwise, that someone, the name being given, is at the telephone wishing to speak with her, she should certainly be as expeditious as possible in replying; for, by holding the wire, she is inconveniencing others, as well as the one who is waiting for her. No lady needs to be warned against speaking discourteously under any circumstances to the telephone assistants at the central office. It is in these little things that one shows herself to be well-bred or not.

None, of course, but the most informal of invitations can be delivered by telephone.

Servants should be taught always to answer the telephone politely and intelligently. When answering, a servant should say whose residence it is, if asked, not by giving the family name, as "Smith," but as

PRACTICAL ETIQUETTE.

"Mr. Smith," and then, if asked who is at the instrument, she should reply, "Mrs. Smith's cook" or "maid."

One's individual manners, and ordinary polite or impolite forms of address, are very noticeable when accentuated by the telephone.



CHAPTER VI.

THE TABLE AND SERVICE AT TABLE. HABITS AT TABLE, SERVANTS AND SERVING.

"God may forgive sins, but awkwardness
has no forgiveness in Heaven or earth."—
Hawthorne.

THE TABLE AND SERVICE AT TABLE.

The table looks best when not over-decorated. The housekeeper who cannot make changes in her table decoration finds that a mirror centerpiece is a background that multiplies the beauty of her flowers, fruit, leaves, or whatever may constitute the decoration.

A unique and effective decoration for a luncheon table is made of long, narrow bouquets of white carnations, tied with bows of yellow satin ribbon, and arranged so that the ribbons all meet in the center of the table, while the points are directed towards the guests. The effect is of a great golden-hearted daisy.

A pretty conceit for decorating a dainty table is to cluster a number of small palms together in the center of the table. Around these place small ferns, while beyond the

latter arrange yards of smilax so as to conceal the pots. Outside of all have a flat border composed of loose bunches of pinks, roses, and maiden-hair ferns. Tie these with wide pink satin ribbons, a long end of which should extend from each bouquet down to the place of each of the women guests, and have her name painted in gold upon it. Then there should be *boutonnieres* of pink carnations for the men.

Menu cards are not ordinarily used at any but the most formal kind of an entertainment. They are always seen at large functions, men's public dinners, etc., which are usually given in a hotel or restaurant; but in a private house individual menu cards, whether at a dinner or a luncheon, are exceptional.

When the dinner is large and formal, or even when it numbers only eight or ten, it is wise to have small cards with the names of the guests at each place at the table, and, if the guests are strangers to each other, to have a tray in the men's dressing-room or hall where they remove their coats and hats with tiny envelopes addressed to each, containing little cards on which is written the name of the dinner partner. The hostess must see that, as soon as two dinner partners are in the receiving room before dinner, they meet each other, and have a

chance for a little conversation before the meal is announced; and she should also make a point to introduce each woman before dinner to the man who is to sit on the other side of her.

Introductions are not proper at the table, and at a large dinner it is awkward to introduce all one's guests to each other before the meal. At a small dinner, of course, it is not necessary to observe all this formality, and the hostess may introduce her guests to each other without much ceremony, when the company numbers only four or six; but with more, each woman should be provided with a partner who escorts her to the table. At a small function there need be but a few minutes of waiting before the guests are all seated. The guest of honor sits at the right of the host.

As to the manner of arranging the table, there is some difference of opinion. However, generally speaking, there should be a napkin, squarely folded, in front of each guest, and at the left of it the forks, *i. e.*, a fish fork and a large and a small ordinary fork. At the right of the napkin should be the knives and spoons, a glass, bread-and-butter plate (if used), and a salt cellar; and in the center of the table on an embroidered centerpiece or circular mirror, the floral decorations. At the head of the table, upon

an embroidered square, are laid the tea service,—the urn, the cups and saucers, the cream pitcher, sugar bowl, etc.; at the other end are placed the dishes for serving. Scattered about on circular doilies are the dishes of jelly, preserves, pickles (sweet and sour), olives, salted almonds, etc.

Chafing-dishes are used to prepare such dishes as terrapin, oysters, or whatever may be cooked absolutely on the table. A napkin and plate, or tray, is best liked for removing crumbs.

Finger bowls should always follow the last course at formal and informal meals alike, except at breakfast, when, if fruit is the first course, the finger-bowl is put on the table when the covers are laid ready for the fruit course.

Spoon-holders are no longer used, but if one should be fancied it would be better to put the bowl of the spoon in the holder first.

Unless one serves something more than wafers, small cakes, tea, and chocolate on an "at home" day, napkins are not necessary; if, however, there is some dish that will soil the fingers or the lips, then there should be a pile of small napkins on the tea-table.

Tooth-picks should not be put on the table, nor should they be used outside one's own room.

It is not necessary to fold one's napkin when only one meal is to be eaten in the house in which one is staying.

The day for tying cakes, sandwiches, etc., with ribbons has passed.

The waitress should stand with a tray in her hand behind the host's chair to receive each plate as it is filled, passing it to the left of the guest, and waiting for him to remove it. When the hostess is pouring tea or coffee, the maid's place is by her left side in waiting for the cups. After that she should be on the alert to see when the glasses need filling, or when there is bread, pickles, or anything to be passed. When removing the plates it should be from the right side of the guest, but everything should be offered at the left that the right hand may be used to receive it.

When a dish is passed and there is no maid in attendance, one should help himself and pass it on. If a dish is standing near one, under such circumstances, he may quite properly ask if he may help himself, and do so.

When a plate is passed for a helping, the knife and fork are laid well to the side of the plate, so placed that they will not fall off, and yet not be in the way of the server.

All the appurtenances of each course should be removed before the succeeding

one is served. The bread-and-butter plates, however, should be removed before the salad course, as crackers and cheese are passed with this, the salad plate being used to hold all three things.

The salted almonds should be started about the table by the hostess soon after the guests are seated. Some hostesses possess cut-glass or china individual dishes, on which the almonds are placed when the guest helps himself, but it is quite usual for them to be placed on the bread-and-butter plate.

Bonbons should be passed by the maid when the coffee is served, and eaten from the plate from which the finger-bowl and doily have been removed.

It is not important whether tumblers or goblets are used on the dinner-table; each season brings its own custom.

The bread-and-butter plates at a formal dinner serve the purpose only of bread plates, as it is not customary to serve butter on such occasions. If it is used, however, butter should be made into tiny balls, and one or two placed on each bread-and-butter plate.

It is customary to put the vegetables served with the meat on the same plate. The use of individual dishes for vegetables is no longer approved.

Oranges are seldom served at dinner unless they are specially prepared, that is, with the skin taken off, and the sections divided, in which case the fruit is eaten from a fork.

Cheese and crackers of some sort are always served with salad courses.

At a formal dinner bouillon or consommé is usually served in soup-plates. At a supper or luncheon it is oftenest served in cups. The regulation cups are those having handles on each side.

When oysters are served on the half-shell, they are usually placed upon the table before the meal is announced.

It is not customary to serve fruit as a first course at dinner, though at a lunch it is quite proper.

Grape-fruit must be served ice cold. It is served in two ways: either it is cut in halves, midway between the blossom and the stem end, the seeds removed, the pulp loosened with a sharp knife, but served in the natural skin, to be eaten with a spoon; or the pulp and seeds are entirely removed from the skin with a sharp knife, and the edible part only served in deep dessert plates. Pulverized sugar should accompany grape-fruit.

In waiting upon plates, one should never

pour gravy on the food, but place it at one side.

The salad course at dinner always succeeds the game course.

After dinner coffee is served in small cups and without cream. In many houses rock-candy, crushed in very small pieces, is used as a substitute for sugar, the claim being made that it gives a purer sweetness.

Cut sugar is served with coffee, and powdered sugar with fruit or oatmeal.

Coffee may be served at the table or in the drawing-room as is best liked. People are not asked if they will have it; it is served to them. Only sugar is offered with black coffee.

HABITS AT TABLE.

Nothing indicates the good breeding of a man so much as his manners at table. There are a thousand little points to be observed, which, although not absolutely necessary, distinctly stamp the refined and well-bred man. A man may pass muster by dressing well, and may sustain himself tolerably in conversation; but, if he is not nearly perfect in table etiquette, dining will betray him.

Any unpleasant peculiarity, abruptness, or coarseness of manner is especially offen-

sive at table. People are more easily disgusted at that time than at any other.

One should never rest the arms upon the table, but keep the left hand, when not in use, lying quietly in the lap.

A man guest should never precede his hostess into or out of the dining-room, but should wait respectfully by the door for her to pass.

A soup-plate should never be tilted for the last spoonful.

The mouth should be kept closed in eating, and as little noise made as possible.

A goblet should be held by the stem, and not by the bowl.

Bread should be broken and not cut before buttering it to eat.

A knife should never be used at table except where one is unable to cut his food with his fork; it should never be used in conveying food to the mouth.

A knife should be held by its handle, and the finger not allowed to extend up on the blade. In eating with a fork it should be held in the right hand.

The fork is generally used with the tines curving upward.

Olives are eaten from the fingers; pickles, from a fork. It is usual to put either a

small fork or a long-handled spoon with a small bowl on the dish containing olives or pickles, and one should use it in helping one's self.

The tips of the fingers are put in the finger-bowls and may then moisten the lips. Both lips and finger tips are dried on the napkin, which is not afterwards folded.

Watermelons are eaten with a fork, and cantaloupes with either a spoon or a fork.

A baked potato should be eaten from the plate after it has been pushed out of its skin by the fork.

Dried beef is eaten with a fork.

Grape seeds may be removed from the mouth with the fingers. The seeds of watermelons should be taken from the fruit with a fork before the fruit is put into the mouth.

Fish bones are taken from the mouth with the fingers. Care, however, is usually taken to leave as few bones as possible in the fish, since the general use of the silver knife with the silver fork has made it easy to separate the bones from the meat.

Bananas are broken with a fork, and a piece is conveyed to the mouth on a fork.

When a servant offers one a dish, he should help himself without taking it from her hand.

When drinking from a cup, the spoon should be left in the saucer, where it also remains when the cup is empty.

It is not proper to eat gravy with bits of bread; instead, it should be regarded as a sauce, and simply eaten on the meat of which it forms a portion.

It is decreed by custom that the small bones of any bird may be taken in the fingers, and the meat eaten from the bone. But this must always be done daintily.

What is known as "layer cake" is eaten from a fork, and in serving it one uses either a pie-knife or a tablespoon and a fork.

Cheese is eaten with a fork.

After-dinner coffee is taken directly from the cup, and not from the spoon.

Crackers should be eaten from the hand, and not be broken into soup.

When bread is passed, one takes a slice as it is cut, and does not break it and leave a portion on the plate. Bread is always eaten from the fingers.

Raw oysters are eaten with a small oyster-fork from the shell. In helping one's self to salt, the little salt-spoon is used, and the salt is placed on the plate.

When strawberries are served with their stems on, one picks one up by the stem,

dips it into the soft sugar at the side of the plate, and eats it from the stem. Bonbons are eaten from the fingers. If a spoon is in the dish from which they are served, then one uses it; if not, the fingers are proper.

An apple or a pear may be held on a fork, and pared with a knife; or it may be quartered, and each quarter held in the fingers, and then pared. Dates are eaten from the fingers.

When one answers "thank you" to an invitation to partake of a certain dish at the table, "yes" is meant.

One should break a small piece of bread off the slice, then butter it and eat it. Only very small children in the nursery bite from a slice of buttered bread.

One need not fear to take the last piece on the plate when it is offered. It would be more impolite to refuse it.

It is very bad form to pile up, or in any way arrange the plates or small dishes put before one, for the benefit of the waiter. She should do her own work, which is to take away the plates without any help.

When one wishes for bread, or anything of that sort, he should simply ask for it, either addressing his request to the servant or, if there is none, to whomever the bread may be nearest, if it is on the table.

Upon leaving the table, and the signal for leaving is given when the hostess rises, one's napkin should be placed upon the table unfolded, unless one is to remain for another meal.

At a formal dinner party the host should enter the dining-room first and with the lady in whose honor the dinner is given; the hostess goes into the dining-room last with the most important man guest, who should be seated at her right.

Where menus are used they should be placed on the left-hand side, beside the forks. When the dinner is over, at a signal from the hostess, the women rise and retire to the drawing-room, where coffee is usually served, the men remaining in the dining-room for coffee and cigars.

Five o'clock tea may be served in a variety of ways: the hostess may brew it herself in a teapot upon her tea-table in the parlor; she may make it by pouring boiling water over a tea-ball; or it may be served by either a man or maid servant in the dining-room. Its proper accompaniments are sugar, cream, sliced lemon, and either wafers, thin sandwiches, or cake.

It is in better form to have a luncheon served at a large table, especially when the guests do not number more than twenty, than to have small tables. Two o'clock is

the fashionable hour for a luncheon; after it is over the guests usually disperse.

A host, in entertaining at a hotel or a restaurant, even if he entertains only one woman, should give the order for the meal himself, and save her the slight embarrassment it may be for her to make her own selection. The most courteous thing is for him to order the meal beforehand, but if the occasion is very informal and he prefers to wait until they are at the table, he should, after he and his guest are seated, hand the menu to her and ask if she has any especial preference, and then, respecting her wishes, give the order himself to the waiter.

If, however, friends happen in, and are asked informally to stay to a meal at a hotel, they may order themselves what they want from the menu, and, if necessary, the host or hostess of the occasion may pay the bill before leaving the dining-room, but the bill should not be paid until the guests have departed.

In giving one's order for dinner at the hotel, oysters come first, then soup, fish, a roast or a bird, ices, whatever dessert may be desired, and coffee. Very often a woman is well served, when she is alone, by allowing the waiter to arrange a dinner for her.

If the only guest at the family dinner-table is a man, he should not be served until all the ladies of the family have been attended to.

If the hostess is the only woman at the table, she is served first, as a lady is of most importance from a social standpoint, and it is always proper to attend to her wants first. After her the man who is a visitor, or whose age gives him precedence, receives attention.

The guest of honor at a tea arrives a little earlier than the other guests, and remains somewhat later, but at a luncheon or dinner she should appear at the regulation time. One should remove one's gloves at a luncheon, but the retaining of the hat is entirely a matter of personal taste.

The inconsiderate guest who arrives late for luncheon or dinner is shown immediately into the dining-room, and the hostess does not leave her guests, but simply rises and motions him to a seat when he enters the room.

Ten minutes is the time usually allowed for each course where more than a six-course dinner is served.

The correct and usual way of seating a bridal party at a wedding entertainment is for the groom to sit at one end of the table, and the bride at the other end, the best

man on the bride's right, and the maid of honor or first bridesmaid on the groom's right. The other bridesmaids and ushers are placed wherever seems best. As a usual thing, the parents of the bride and groom do not sit at the same table with the immediate bridal party, but at another table, together with the near relatives on both sides, and perhaps the minister who officiated at the wedding and his wife; but if it seems desirable to have the parents at the bridal table, it is perfectly proper to seat them there.

There are certain distinctive features of a bridal table which must be in evidence. One is the wedding or bride's cake, and this cake should be the central ornament, and should be surrounded with a wreath of roses. The place-cards should have the initials of the bride and groom woven together for decoration, and the souvenirs may be small satin boxes containing wedding cake.

SERVANTS AND SERVING.

There is so much to say upon the subject of servants, notwithstanding so much has already been said, it is difficult to know where to begin. But, in the first place, every woman should remember that servants are, like herself, human, and that in our free America, they are becoming very independent, not to say self-assertive. Thus a

house mistress has no small matter to deal with when she demands obedience and respectful attention from girls who are generally ignorant, and often impudent and ill-bred. The greatest strength of the mistress lies in her power to control herself, and while she must demand respectfulness from her servants, she can often avoid a clash with them by using a little tact. If they are treated in a kind, though dignified, manner, unless very degenerate, they will usually respond satisfactorily.

One can speak, with perfect propriety, of the one servant employed as "the maid," but not as "our girl."

Servants should be expected to dress neatly, and where there is but one, she should have a clean white apron ready to put on when answering the door-bell, being prepared with a tray to receive the caller's card. She should also know, before answering the bell, who is in and who is not at home, and what excuse, if any, to make for each one called for.

Servants should never be allowed to call any member of the family from a distance, as from the foot of the stairs, but should go to the one to whom she wishes to speak, and deliver her message.

It is hard to say, under all circumstances, what to expect of a nursery governess, and

what should be her privileges. To treat her with the greatest consideration is well worth while; for one is compensated in being able to get an intelligent, ladylike woman who may be trusted to guide her charges wisely. One may ask a governess to sleep in the same room with the children, dress and undress them, eat with them, and teach them, and take the entire charge of them; but, of course, one will provide some attractive place for her to sit during the evening, while the children are asleep in her room. It is also necessary to see that her meals are well cooked and carefully served, and to permit her to be free one afternoon and evening every week. She should be addressed as "Miss Smith," not by her first name.

It is expedient to supervise the work of the general house-work servant as much as possible; and if it is more convenient for her to go up the front stairs to announce callers, and to go down them to answer the front door, certainly allow her to use the front stairs instead of the back ones on occasions. A waitress or parlor-maid is no more privileged to use the front stairs than a general house-work servant. A nurse may be, with propriety, wherever her charges are allowed.

If a maid is expected to wear a cap, it is usually furnished by the lady of the house.

It is good form to address the servants one knows when entering a house, and to thank them for any attention.

It is unfortunate that the English system of feeing has come into vogue here. But it is quite customary now, for a guest, after a visit, even a short one, to bestow upon a servant a small fee, say, of a dollar.



CHAPTER VII.

FUNERALS, MOURNING.

Civility implies self-sacrifice; it is the last touch, the crowning perfection of a noble character.--*Mathews.*

FUNERALS.

At no place is a lack of system, and an observance of formality, more noticable than at a funeral. An undertaker generally has charge of the details, and where he is well informed and has sufficient assistance, he can manage affairs nicely, but there is a great deal of unostentatious service that may be done by friends, indeed, must be. They can assist the servants in arranging the house, flowers, etc., before the funeral; meet any who may call at the door; and in every way stand between the afflicted family and the outside world. Of course none but intimate friends can be of service at such a time. All others, no matter how willing, can but call at the door with offers of service, and even that should not be carried far enough to appear intrusive.

At a house funeral the family remains upstairs, or in a side room, and is not seen. The remains are in the drawing-room, where they are usually viewed by those present

when passing out. The clergyman stands near the head of the casket, if in so doing his voice can be well heard. If there is singing, it is usually done by a quartet or by a smaller number of persons, who are seated at the head of the stairs out of sight and unaccompanied by any musical instrument. Those who are not going to the cemetery quietly disperse at the close of the service. Carriages are in waiting for the family, and the cortege moves as soon after the close of the service as possible.

In the meantime the nurse (if one still remains at the house), or some friend, with the assistance of the servants, makes everything look as natural and pleasant as possible before the return of the family. If visitors come in later, of course it depends upon circumstances whether or not they should be admitted.

Church funerals are more formal. The congregation assembles, and when the carriages containing the family arrive, the organ plays softly, and the procession enters, the relatives walking close to the casket, and sitting as near it as possible. After the services the procession moves out in the same order, and the people in the pews wait until it has passed on.

The crêpe that is hung at the door-bell has often combined with it ribbon streamers,

those for the aged being black, for a younger person purple, and for a child white with white crêpe also. Flowers should be sent to the bereaved, in due time after the death, in token of sympathy.

MOURNING.

The putting on of mourning is a question that should be decided entirely by those most deeply concerned. Many families never follow the custom, and even wear white instead of black on the day of the funeral, while others seem to consider the wearing of crêpe as a mark of respect shown to the dead. To assume the expense such a change in clothing would entail, may sometimes be placing a burden upon the living for the sake of the dead, which certainly neither custom nor reason should demand. Then, to many, the wearing of crêpe is so depressing that it is a sin against one's self to put it on. None but narrow-minded, uncultivated persons would ever think of criticising one for not doing so. Of course one would naturally feel like dressing in as subdued colors as possible, if not in assuming half mourning (black and white, lavender, drab, etc.) if not deep black or crêpe.

When mourning is worn by a wife for a husband, it is worn from one to two years, at least.

The question of wearing mourning for one's betrothed must be decided by one's self, for it is purely a personal question that the laws of etiquette do not govern.

When crêpe is laid aside, black-bordered paper and black-bordered cards are no longer proper. While wearing all black on the street, after crêpe is laid aside, one may wear, with propriety, all white in the house.

While in deep mourning one does not go into society. All that mourning etiquette demands is that one acknowledge her calls with her visiting cards, which should be sent in return for a call within two weeks after it is made, and should go by hand rather than by mail.

One sends invitations to one's friends who are in mourning, to show that they are not forgotten.

CHAPTER VIII.

POLITENESS OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

Give a boy address and accomplishments, and you give him the mastery of palaces and fortunes wherever he goes.—*Ralph Waldo Emerson.*

A mother once asked a clergyman when she should begin to educate her child, then three years old. "Madam," was his reply, "you have lost three years already."

As soon as the child can talk, its lessons in politeness should begin. Among a child's first words should be "please" and "thank you."

A child should never be allowed to leave the table, after it is old enough to understand and to say it, without asking to be excused.

A child should be taught to pass behind and not before one.

Little boys should never be allowed to keep their hats on in the house.

Children, when very young, should be taught to be generous and polite to their little visitors, and, if necessary, to give up all of anything where half will not do.

Children should be taught to "take turns" in playing games, and that no one should monopolize the pleasantest part of a game.

Children soon feel a pride in being little ladies and gentlemen, rather than in being rude and impolite.

If mothers would impress upon their children's minds how stupid they appear when they stand staring at one without answering when addressed with "good morning" or a like salutation, they would be anxious to know what to say, and to say it.

Children do not always know what to answer when addressed. They ought to be taught, so that they may feel no embarrassment.

When children inconvenience others, they ought to be taught to say "excuse me" or "beg pardon."

In the cars, or in any public place, a boy or a girl should always rise, and give his or her place to an older person.

A child should always learn that it is both naughty and rude to contradict, and to say "what for" and "why," when told to do anything.

A mother who is as careful of her child's moral nature and manners as of his physical nature, will guard him from naughty and rude playmates as closely as she would from measles or whooping-cough.

A mother should never allow any disrespect in her children's manners toward her-

self, nor toward any one older than they are. They should be taught especially to reverence the aged.

Habits of politeness and kindness to the poor are of great worth, and easily formed in childhood.

Virtue is born of good habits, and the formation of habits may be said to constitute almost the whole work of education.

Habits have been compared to handcuffs, easily put on and difficult to rid one's self of.

Those parents who regulate their lives in accordance with the commands of the Bible, find many verses which are of great assistance in teaching politeness to young children, such as, "Be ye courteous one to another," "Be respectful to your elder," "Do to other as ye would that they should do to you," etc.

A child should be thoroughly trained with regard to table manners. The well-bred child will not chew his food with his mouth half open, talk with it in his mouth, nor make any unnecessary noises in eating; and he will handle his knife and fork properly.

Children should be taught that it is very rude to look into drawers or boxes, or, in fact, to meddle with or handle anything away from home that is not intended for them to play with.

Children should be made to understand that they must not ask too many questions promiscuously, such as, "Where are you going?" "What have you there?" etc.

A child should be taught never to tease a playmate's mother, or to have its own mother teased by a playmate. Teasing should not be allowed.

Children should never be allowed to say "I won't" and "I will," even to each other.

Children should never be allowed to speak of an elder person by the last name without the proper prefix. They should also be taught, in addressing boys and girls, say, sixteen years of age, to use the prefix, as "Miss" or "Mr.," before the given name; thus "Miss Alice" or "Mr. George." In fact, all people should observe this rule in addressing the young, except in case the older person is very familiar with the younger, or in case the latter is too young to be so addressed.

Children are now taught to say, "Yes, mamma," "What, mamma?" "Thank you, mamma," "Yes, Mrs. Allen," "What, Mrs. Allen?" etc., in preference to "Yes, ma'am," No, ma'am," etc.

Children should be taught that it is rude to yawn without trying to suppress it, or

without concealing the mouth with the hand; to whistle or hum in the presence of older persons; or to make any monotonous noise with feet or hands, beating time, etc.; to play with napkin rings, or any article at table during meal time; to pick the teeth with the fingers; to trim or clean one's nails outside one's room; to lounge anywhere in the presence of company; to place the elbows on the table, or to lean upon it while eating; to speak of absent persons by their first names, when they would not so address them if they were present; to acquire the habit of saying "you know," "says he," "says she;" to use slang words; to tattle; to hide the mouth with the hand when speaking; to point at anyone or anything with the finger; to stare at persons; to laugh at one's own stories or remarks; to toss articles instead of handing them; to leave the table with food in the mouth; to take possession of a seat that belongs to another without instantly rising upon his return; to leave anyone without saying "good-by;" to interrupt any one in conversation; to push; to ridicule others; to pass, without speaking, any one whom they know; etc.

Some young people are not as particular as they should be about certain articles of the toilet, such as combs, brushes, etc. One should always have such things for his own

individual use. It is exceedingly impolite to use any toilet article belonging to another.

It is ill-mannered to ask questions about affairs that do not concern one, or to pry into the private affairs of one's friends. To inquire the cost of articles indiscriminately, is impudent.

If parents are not at home when visitors come in, or are too busy to see them at once, a child, in the absence of a maid, should politely show them in, offer them a comfortable chair, show them anything he thinks they will be interested in, and make every effort to entertain them agreeably until such time as his parents can take his place. He should then politely withdraw from the room.

Children and young people should early learn not to monopolize the best light or the most desirable seat in the room, but to look about when anyone enters, whether a guest or an older member of their own family, and see if by giving up their own place the new-comer may be made more comfortable.

A boy ought to show to his mother and sisters every attention he would show to any other woman. Should they chance to meet on the street he should politely raise his hat. He should allow them to pass first through a door, give them the inside of the

walk, help them into a carriage, and everywhere and under all circumstances treat them with politeness and deference. Girls should of course treat their brothers in the same polite manner; for they can hardly expect to receive attentions where they are unwilling to bestow them.

Children, especially little boys, should be taught not to precede their mothers, or any woman, into theaters, street cars, churches, elevators, or into the house or even a room.

SCHOOL-ROOM ETIQUETTE.

"Good manners are the shadows of virtues, if not virtues themselves."

If teachers realized the inestimable amount of good they might accomplish by giving a little time and thought to the manners of their pupils, surely they would willingly give it. Those of their pupils who have no proper training at home would thus gain a knowledge which, in after life, would prove a blessing. And such a course acted upon by the teacher would be of great assistance to the parents of those who are well trained at home; for a large portion of a child's time is spent in school, and under conditions that require such training.

Teachers must treat their scholars politely if they expect polite treatment from them.

Every teacher should see that no pupil is allowed to treat those of a lower station in life with disrespect.

It is a common occurrence for a teacher to speak with seeming disrespect of a pupil's parents, blaming them for the pupil's lack of interest in school, truancy, etc. Such a course is highly reprehensible in the teacher, and gains the pupil's ill-will. It is better to assume that the parents would be displeased with anything wrong in the pupil, and to appeal to the pupil for his mother's or father's sake.

A teacher should never allow herself or himself to be addressed by pupils as "Teacher," but as Miss or Mr. Smith.

If pupils would take pains to bid a teacher "good-morning" and "good-night," they would appear well in so doing, and easily give pleasure to another.

The entire atmosphere of a school-room is dependent upon trifles. Where a teacher, by her own actions and in accordance with her requirements, insures kindness and politeness from all to all, she may feel almost sure of the success of her school.

Young misses ought to be addressed by the teacher as "Miss Julia," "Miss Annie." Young boys (too young to be addressed as Mr.) should be addressed as "Master Brown," "Master Jones," etc.

Teachers should use great discretion in reproving any unintentional rudeness, especially on the part of those ignorant from lack of home training. If such were reprovved gently and privately, it would be more efficacious and just. No one should be allowed to appear to disadvantage from ignorance.

Selfishness, untruthfulness, slang, rowdyism, egotism, or any show of superiority should be corrected in the school-room.

Young teachers hardly realize with what fear and dread mothers intrust to them their carefully reared children, especially young ones.



CHAPTER X.

OFFICIAL ETIQUETTE.

"Good fashion rests on reality, and hates nothing so much as pretenders."—*Emerson.*

All presentations to foreign courts are made through the national representatives, and from them is received all the information desired in reference to the necessary forms and ceremonies.

Kings and queens are addressed as "Your Majesty." The Prince of Wales, the crown princes, and all other princes and princesses are addressed as "Your Royal Highness."

The President's "levees" at Washington are open to all, and are conducted very much as an ordinary "reception." As one enters, an official announces him, and he proceeds directly to the president and his lady, and pays his respects.

The door of the White House may be said never to be closed, and any one who desires may call upon its occupants as upon those of any other dwelling. He may not, however, obtain a personal interview. This, to be secured, he must seek in the company of an official or intimate friend of the president, who will be able to judge of the claims for attention of a visitor.

No particular style of dress is required to make one's appearance at the Republican Court.

No refreshments are expected to be offered at a presidential reception.

Custom does not require that the wife of the president of the United States should return official calls. Exception is made in the case of visiting Royalty. The wives of the foreign ambassadors should make the first call upon the wife of the vice-president, as should the wives of the cabinet officials. At a function given by officials of foreign governments at Washington, the wife of the secretary of state takes precedence over the wives of the foreign ambassadors.



CHAPTER XI.

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE, APPLICATIONS, ETC.

Since custom is the principal magistrate of human life, let men by all means endeavor to obtain good customs.—*Lord Bacon.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE.

Closely written postal cards and long letters meet with little favor among business men; therefore it is important to make business correspondence as plain and brief as possible.

Names of places and persons should be written very plainly.

When a letter is written in reply to another, the date of the letter to which the reply is made should be given, and it is an excellent plan, and one that saves much time, to give in a letter the substance of the one to which it is a reply. This is especially desirable when accepting a special offer made in such letter, thus:

Mr. A. FLANAGAN,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of Feb. 15, in which you offer us a discount of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. on your books, when purchased in lots of 100 or more, came duly. We

herewith enclose our check for three hundred dollars (\$300.), for which please ship us, by freight the following:

100 copies of "Words; Their Use and Abuse."
100 " " "Getting on in the World."
100 " " "Hours with Men and Books."

Respectfully,

GEO. W. JONES & CO.

Boulder, Colo., April 3, 1899.

Griggsville, Ill.

MESSRS. HARPER & BROTHERS,
New York.

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a post-office order for \$3, for which please send me Harper's New Monthly Magazine for one year, beginning with the May number.

Respectfully,

(MISS) SARA BROWN.

When writing a business letter, a married woman should sign her name as she would sign it when writing any other letter; that is, by placing her first name and surname in the usual position of the signature, and adding, a little to the left-hand, her name in full, with the address, thus:

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 9th, 1899.

MESSRS. HARPER & BROTHERS,
New York.

Gentlemen:

Please send me one copy of "How Women Should Ride," for which you will find enclosed one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25).

Respectfully,

EMMA C. BOWEN.

MRS. CHARLES E. BOWEN,
324 Dupont Avenue.

When writing to a person or firm for information solely for one's own benefit, a postal card or a stamped envelope should be enclosed for a reply.

It is a too common custom among people unacquainted with the rules of business, when sending an order to one firm, to enclose money to be paid another, or with which to make small purchases in some other line, to be sent in the package ordered from the firm with which the correspondence is held. The proper way to do when one wishes to order goods from different houses in the same city, and yet have all the goods shipped in the same package, is to write an order to each firm requesting the goods to be delivered to the firm with which one does the most business, having, of course, notified such firm of his action.

It has become so common among people to request everything "by return mail" that business men look upon such requests as a mere form, rather than as an evidence of urgency. If such urgency exists, it is well to state the cause of it in a few words, and request immediate attention to the order, thus:

Harvard, Ill., Nov. 2, 1899.

MESSRS. A. C. McCLURG & Co.,
Chicago.

Gentlemen:

I enclose herewith \$2, for which please send me a copy of Longfellow's poetical works. You

will oblige me by sending the book by return mail, as I wish to use it on the evening of the 4th inst.

Respectfully,

JAMES WELLS.

Whoever writes a caustic letter makes a mistake; for it will do no good, even if there seems to be a cause for it, and if the assumed cause proves to be simply a mistake the writer will be humiliated.

LETTERS OF APPLICATION.

It is sometimes difficult to write a letter of application, because one must speak of himself and of his ability to fill the position sought, and to do so without seeming egotistic. If the applicant has had experience in work similar to that for which he applies, a simple statement of the fact, the length of time engaged in such work, the reason for quitting his last position, and the name and address of his former employer, should form the substance of his letter. If he has had no experience, he should state what advantages he has had to qualify himself for the work, and not boast that he could soon and easily learn to do it.

The following will exemplify the points:

124 La Salle St.,

Chicago, Sept. 24, 1899.

MESSRS. A. G. BAKER & Co.,

Kirkwood, Ohio.

Gentlemen:

I am informed by a friend, Mr. C. A. Brooks, of your village, that you are in want of a

book-keeper, and I desire to make application for the position. I am a young man, but have had several years experience in keeping books. I am now in charge of the books of Messrs. Jones & Williams, of this city, to whom I can refer you for information as to my ability and character. I desire to go to the country, and should be glad to work for you, if you can pay me \$70 per month, which is my present salary.

Very respectfully,
T. R. MILLER.

Salem, Wis., May 15, 1899.

MESSRS. CLARK & WILLIAMS,
107 State Street, Chicago.

Gentlemen:

I am informed that your shipping clerk is soon to leave, and that the position now held by him will be vacant. I desire to apply for the same, but I am sorry to state that I have not had any experience in this particular line of work; however, I have been a general clerk in a village store, and am familiar with simple book-keeping, which would probably enable me to learn the work of a shipping clerk in a reasonable length of time.

In case you should wish to engage me on trial, I would gladly assist, without compensation, your present clerk until the end of his engagement, which, I understand, is about three weeks from date.

My present employer is Mr. G. W. Webster of this place, and he will doubtless answer any inquiries concerning my work that you may address him.

Respectfully,
GEO. E. JOHNSON.

Such letters should always contain a stamp for a reply. The stamp is attached

by its corner or by a pin to the head of the letter.

Great precaution should always be taken not to send a letter with insufficient postage on it; for the additional postage is collected from the person to whom the letter is sent, and many business men look upon such neglect as inexcusable, if they do not consider it dishonest, inasmuch as it compels others to pay what the writer should have known it was his duty to pay.

An application for a position as teacher in a public school is often very difficult to write, because it is necessary to say much, and to say it, in some cases, to men who are not thoroughly familiar with business principles.

Before giving any forms, some suggestions which experience has taught may be of great importance. The handwriting should be natural. If one has a degree, he should not sign his name with it, but state in his letter that he is a graduate, naming the institution from which he was graduated. All boasting should be avoided. One should not ask a reply by return mail, but he might enclose a postal card or a stamp with a request to be informed when the board meets to consider applications. One ought not to name as references persons who know nothing about his work; for

although they may, if consulted, endeavor to praise him, they will show their ignorance of what he has done, and the board will naturally assume that he has no better references.

As a rule it is not advisable to give testimonials from ministers or from county superintendents, unless the writers can say that they are familiar with the teacher's work, and have visited his school. Very old testimonials should not be placed before a board. Indeed, it is doubtful whether any testimonial, unless it comes from a competent judge, is of value.

If boards would consult one's references, or seek information from outside sources, it would be only just to all concerned; but as they will not often do this, it is wise to send copies of two or three, generally not more, good testimonials, and to have one or two of the applicant's friends write the board in his behalf.

A letter of application, especially if for the position of superintendent or that of principal, should be full and explicit, specifying the opportunities the writer has had to prepare himself for the position, rather than stating that he has done so-and-so, for in the latter case it might seem like boasting.

Sometimes a short letter, unless circum-

stances demand a long one, will be most favorably received by a board. The writer once knew a very important position to be obtained by a correspondence about as follows (names of places, dates, etc., are omitted):

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Gentlemen:

I learn through a friend in your county, that the position of superintendent of your school is vacant. If the position has not been filled, I desire to make application for the same. I am a graduate of _____, and have taught three years. I am now principal of the _____ schools, but desire to teach in your State, as my home is there.

Respectfully,

A stamp was enclosed for a reply. The secretary of the board at once wrote asking for references and stating the salary paid. The applicant replied that he did not wish the position at the salary named, and thanked the secretary for the trouble he had been given.

Had the applicant written a long letter, setting forth the value of his services, and urging the board to raise the salary, it is not probable that a reply would have been received by him. The simple statement that he did not want the position at the salary named, was evidence to the board that he considered his services worth more, and, moreover, that he had confidence that he

would command more. The secretary replied to the last short note, asking for references and at what salary he would accept the position. The information was given, and in a few days the applicant was requested to meet the board with the assurance that the position would be given him if the interview proved satisfactory, which it did. Afterwards the applicant was informed by the president of the board that his short business-like letters, written in an almost illegible but natural hand, obtained for him the place over nearly one hundred applicants, many of whom were college graduates of long experience in teaching, and who had basketfuls of testimonials, but not one of whom had written even a fairly good letter of application.

Many cities and towns have stated public examinations, which applicants must attend before they can be employed.

The impression of character and of qualification produced by a personal interview is deemed so important that even minor appointments are scarcely given to any one not personally known to one of the school board, or to some one in whose professional judgment they have great confidence.

Preliminary inquiries about positions are most profitably made through acquaintances, who can advise one whether to take any further steps. One might write as follows:

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 3, 1899.

My Dear Friend:

May I trouble you to ascertain whether there is any vacancy in the schools at Elgin, to which I would have any prospect of an appointment? You will confer a great favor upon me if you will ask the superintendent, and let me know soon what he says. You can say to him that after I finished the high school course at Racine, I taught a term in a district school in Racine County, Wis., and was one year in charge of a primary department at Woodstock, and that I had charge of the grammar department at the latter place last year.

You know something of the work I have done, and I can furnish testimonials from the school officers where I have taught.

Yours very truly,

EMMA C. BOWEN.

If a favorable answer is received, something like the following form may be used, which is also a form suitable to make application where one is already acquainted, and where formal applications are expected.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 10, 1899.

MR. C. E. RYAN,

Supt. of Public Schools,

Elgin, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I desire to obtain a position in the schools of your city. I enclose a letter from Mr. Henry Jones, a director of Woodstock, where I last taught; and I refer you to Mrs. Mary Smith, of Elgin. I prefer the intermediate work, but would not object to any position that I may be able to fill.

I completed the course in the Racine High School, and have taught a little more than two years,

first in a country school, then in a primary school a year at Woodstock, where I afterward had charge of the grammar room for a year.

Please inform me when and by whom candidates are examined, as well as what vacancies there are, and be kind enough to make any suggestions that you think will be helpful to me.

Very respectfully,

(Miss) EMMA C. BOWEN.



CHAPTER XII.

GENERAL HINTS.

We remain shackled by timidity till we have learned to speak and act with propriety.—
Samuel Johnson.

A man raises his hat when walking with another, not only to his own acquaintances, but to those persons who bow to his companion, whether he is acquainted with them or not.

If a man meets a woman in a hotel corridor or hall he should step aside, allowing her to pass, and raising his hat.

If in a public place a man hands a woman anything she has dropped, he should raise his hat when offering it to her. A well-bred man raises his hat after passing the fare of a woman in a car or coach. This does not mean that he has any desire to become acquainted with her, but it is his tribute to her sex.

Slight inaccuracies in statements should not be corrected in the presence of others.

One should give her children, unless married, their christian names only, or say "my daughter" or "my son," in speaking of them to anyone excepting servants.

Men remove their hats when in elevators in the presence of women.

Men having occasion to pass before women seated in lecture and concert rooms, and all other places, should "beg pardon," and pass with their faces, and not their backs, toward them.

In going up or down stairs, a man precedes a woman or walks by her side.

To indulge in ridicule of another, whether the subject be present or absent, is to descend below the level of gentlemanly propriety.

A reverence for religious observances and religious opinions is a distinguishing trait of a refined mind.

Religious topics should be avoided in conversation, except where all are prepared to concur in a respectful treatment of the subject. In mixed societies the subject should never be introduced.

Frequent consultation of the watch or time-piece is impolite, either when at home or abroad. If at home, it appears as if one were tired of the company and wished them to be gone; if abroad, as if the hours dragged heavily, and one were calculating how soon he would be released.

It is very unbecoming to exhibit petulance or angry feeling, though it is indulged

in largely in almost every circle. The true gentleman does not suffer his countenance to be easily ruffled.

The right of privacy is sacred, and should always be respected. It is exceedingly improper to enter a private room without knocking. No relation, however intimate, will justify an abrupt intrusion upon a private apartment. Likewise the trunk, boxes, packets, papers, or letters of any individual, locked or unlocked, sealed or unsealed, are sacred. It is ill-mannered even to open a book-case, or to read a written paper lying open, without permission, expressed or implied.

Members of the same family should never differ with each other in public.

One should never appear to be thinking of his own personal rights to the resenting of a little slight, whether real or imaginary.

In small communities where near neighbors, for convenience's sake, borrow back and forth, great care should be taken that the practice does not become a nuisance, as it surely does when it is indulged in too frequently, and when borrowed articles are not speedily returned and in good condition. There should be no stinted measures in returning.

Ostentation is snobbish, as is all too great profusion.

To affect not to remember a person is despicable, and reflects only on the pretender.

Some conceited or ill-bred people imagine they make themselves important and powerful by being rude and insulting.

One is judged, to a great extent, by the character of his associates.

One should be very careful how he asks for the loan of a book. If interest is shown in one, its owner will offer it for perusal if willing to lend it. When reading a borrowed book, one should take the best of care of it, and return it as soon as possible. No real lady or gentlemen will leave finger prints upon its pages, or turn down its leaves in place of a book-mark, or scribble in it with a pencil, or loan it to a third person without the knowledge and consent of the owner.

A lack of reverence in one in the house of God, implies low parentage, or a coarse nature that is not subject to refinement.

To whisper and laugh during any public entertainment proclaims one's ill-breeding, and invades the rights of others.

One ought never to leave the house after the evening's entertainment without bidding the hostess good-night, and acknowledging the pleasure the evening has afforded him.

The business man has no stock-in-trade that pays him better than a good address.

It is only those persons and families whose position is not a secure one, that are afraid to be seen outside their own social circle.

One should never reprove servants or children before strangers.

A true lady will not betray her astonishment at any violation of conventional rules, least of all will she make it her province to punish those who may make any such violation.

If one, on meeting another, fails to recall the name, he should frankly say so.

One should never recall himself to the recollection of a casual acquaintance without at the same time mentioning his name.

In a flat-house a man should take his hat and coat into the apartment where he is going to call, and not leave them in the hall on the first floor.

It is very bad taste, even in quite a large party, for young girls to visit a man at his office.

It is perfectly good form for a mother to invite to a little child's party children whose parents she does not know, or who have not yet called upon her. The invitations go out in the child's name and to the child's friends.



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